Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-89-157
Wednesday
16 August 1989

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CONTENTS

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab Committee Appeals for Lebanon Cease-Fire *[SPA]* 1
Arabs 'To Internationalize' Lebanon Crisis *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 1
ACC Information Ministers Meet in Baghdad *[Baghdad Radio]* 1
Saddam Addresses Ministers *[Baghdad Radio]* 1
Agreement Reached *[INA]* 2
Egypt's Al-Sharif Cited *[INA]* 2
Jordan's Al-Majali Comments *[Amman Radio]* 3
AL-WAFD Report on Arab Summit Denied *[SPA]* 3

Islamic Affairs

ICO Chief Calls For End to Lebanon Strife *[SPA]* 3
Turkey, Bulgaria Agree on Muslim Minority Plan *[WAKH]* 3

Palestinian Affairs

'Abd-Rabbuh, Pelletreau Comment After Talks *[Sanaa VOP]* 4
Abu-Sharif Faults U.S. Silence on 'Massacres' *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 4
'Arafat Asks Palestinians To Use Jordanian Dinar *[Cairo Radio]* 5
More on 'Arafat's Instructions *[Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B 16 Aug]* 5
Al-Hasan Confirms Rabin's Message to 'Arafat *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 5
More on Al-Hasan Confirmation *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 5
Egypt Reportedly Conveyed Message *[Kuwait AL-ANBA' 14 Aug]* 6
Call No 44's 'Important Points' Detailed *[Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio]* 6
Islamic Jihad in Territories Issues Statement *[Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio]* 6
Hawatimah Interviewed on PLO, Jordanian Policy *[Dubayy AL-BAYAN 11 Aug]* 7

ARAB AFRICA

Egypt

Shamir Asks U.S. To Broker Mubarak Meeting *[AL-WAFD 13 Aug]* 10
Israeli ADP Leader Cited on Shamir Plan *[MENA]* 10
Al-Darawishah Meets NDP's Wali *[AL-AKHBAR 14 Aug]* 10
Abu-Talib Conveys Message From Bush to Mubarak *[MENA]* 11
President Mubarak Receives Mitterrand's Envoy *[MENA]* 11
U.S. Urged To Accelerate, Elevate PLO Talks *[AL-AKHBAR 13 Aug]* 11
Editorial Says Fatah Decision on Plan 'Logical' *[AL-AKHBAR 10 Aug]* 11
Congress' 'Moderate Course' Hailed *[AL-AHRAM 12 Aug]* 12
Agreement Reportedly Reached With IMF, IBRD *[AL-MUSAWWAR 11 Aug]* 12
Islamic Group Leader 'Abd-al-Rahman Released *[AL-WAFD 13 Aug]* 13
NDP Blamed for Hulwan Steel Plant Incidents *[AL-MUSAWWAR 11 Aug]* 13

Morocco

Hassan Receives Arab Tripartite Committee Envoy *[Rabat Radio]* 14
Committee Report Delivered to Arab Envoys *[Rabat Radio]* 14

Sudan

Report on Al-Mahdi 3 Jul Letter to Al-Bashir *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 10 Aug]* 14

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Bahrain

Foreign Minister Returns From U.S. Visit *[WAKH]* 17
'Extreme Concern' Expressed Over Lebanese Crisis *[WAKH]* 17

Qatar

Foreign Minister Returns From Saudi Arabia 14 Aug *[WAKH]* 17

Saudi Arabia

Sudan's Al-Bashir Statements in Jeddah Noted 17
Says Reconciliation 'Imminent' *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 30 Jul]* 17
Talks to Reporters *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 31 Jul]* 18

IRAQ

State To Provide 'Any Possible Help' to 'Awn *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 19
Press Urges United Arab Stand Against Syria *[INA]* 19
INA Editor Analyzes 'Syrian Assaults' in Lebanon 20
Journalist's Tour of Nuclear Reactor, Part 2 *[ALIF BA' 2 Aug]* 20

ISRAEL

Former Chief Rabbi: Land Compromise Permissible *[THE JERUSALEM POST 14 Aug]* 23
No Change in Fatah Position Seen in Resolutions *[THE JERUSALEM POST 13 Aug]* 23
Lebanon Security Zone Crossing Points Reopened *[THE JERUSALEM POST 15 Aug]* 24
Review of Hizballah, Major Personalities *[MA'ARIV 11 Aug]* 24
'Only' 3,000 Soviet Immigrants Expected in 1989 *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 16 Aug]* 25
Modified Boeing 707 Tankers Said World's Best *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 14 Aug]* 26
Drug Networks, Dealers Uncovered, Detained 26
Police Search AL-FAJR Documents *[Jerusalem Radio]* 27
Leaflet No 44 Bans All Meetings With Israelis *[Jerusalem TV]* 27
Transit Installations for Detainees in Territories *[DAVAR 15 Aug]* 27
Physicians Note Inadequacies in Gaza Clinics *[THE JERUSALEM POST 15 Aug]* 27
Further on Unrest in Territories 13 Aug *[THE JERUSALEM POST 14 Aug]* 28
Injuries Reported in 15 Aug Disturbances *[Jerusalem Radio]* 29

JORDAN

Government Announces Election Date, Regulations *[Amman Radio]* 30
West Bank Moneychanger Comments on Dinar Rate *[Jerusalem International]* 30
Industrial Sector Raises JD181,000 for Uprising *[JORDAN TIMES 16 Aug]* 31
Petra Bank Manager 'Not Seen' for 48 Hours *[JORDAN TIMES 12 Aug]* 31
Banker Plans 'To Return' to Amman *[JORDAN TIMES 13 Aug]* 32
Amman, Bonn Sign DM67 Million Accord *[JORDAN TIMES 14 Aug]* 33
Al-Masri Returns After 'Fruitful' Talks in Moscow *[Amman Radio]* 34

LEBANON

Shams al-Din Warns West Against 'Show of Force' *[Tehran Radio]* 35
Paper Says U.S. Asks PLO Help on Hostages *[Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM 15 Aug]* 35
Syria's Talas Warns E. Beirut on Attacking Syria *[VOM]* 35
AFP: 'Awn Says Syria 'Totally Miscalculated' 35
'Awn Reportedly Admits Losses on Suq al-Gharb *[VOM]* 36

'Awn Demands Lifting of Syrian Blockade *[AFP]* 36
'Awn Acceptance of Cease-Fire Appeal Reported *[VOL]* 36
Junblatt Vows To Destroy 'Awn, Condemns West *[Paris Radio]* 36
Junblatt on French Policy, Suq al-Gharb Battle *[VOM]* 37
Al-Huss Welcomes UN Call for Cease-Fire *[Voice of National Resistance]* 37
PSP Criticizes UN Security Council Resolution *[VOM]* 37
Jordanian Source Expects UN Meeting on Lebanon *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 37
French Government Sends Frigate to Lebanon 38
Equipped With Exocet Missles *[VOL]* 38
Commander Cites Reasons *[AFP]* 38
Turkish Embassy Personnel in Beirut Evacuated *[Istanbul GUNAYDIN 15 Aug]* 38
Reportage on Continued Fighting in Beirut Area 38
Syrians Reportedly Bring Mortars *[VOL]* 38
VOL Says Clashes Intensify 39
Israeli Warplanes Overfly Sidon *[RFL]* 39
VOL Updates Security Situation 39
Brigade Breaks Links With Command *[VOM]* 39
Unidentified Warplanes Over Mountain *[RFL]* 39

SYRIA

Al-Asad, Al-Shar' Meet Iran's Velayati *[Tehran Radio]* 40
Al-Asad Accepts Invitation to Visit *[Damascus Radio]* 40
More on Discussions *[Damascus Radio]* 40
Al-Shar', Iran's Velayati Meet Lebanese Groups *[Tehran TV]* 40
Meeting Called 'Council of War' *[Beirut Voice of National Resistance]* 41
Velayati, Lebanese Stress Unity *[IRNA]* 41
Information Minister on 'Awn, Nationalist Forces *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 41

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Najibullah Addresses 'Opposition' Commanders *[BAKHTAR]* 42
Rebel Leader Says Jalalabad To Fall in 5 Months *[Jeddah 'UKAZ 8 Aug]* 42
Mujahidin Gunners Shell Kabul Airport 15 Aug *[AFP]* 42
Fighting in Nangarhar, Other Provinces Noted *[BAKHTAR]* 43

India

President Venkataraman Addresses Nation 14 Aug *[Delhi Radio]* 43
Rajya Sabha Members Argue Over Gandhi Speech *[Delhi Radio]* 45
Independence Day Bombings Injure 40 in Kashmir *[AFP]* 45
Pakistani, Soviet, Other Leaders Send Greetings *[Delhi Radio]* 46
More Joint Venture Projects With USSR Proposed *[Delhi Radio]* 46
Sikh Students Federation Leader Killed *[Delhi TV]* 46
6 'Terrorists' Killed in Punjab 14 Aug *[Delhi Radio]* 46
Team Visits Violence-Affected Areas in Assam *[Delhi Radio]* 46
Police Burn Seized Heroin, Marijuana 11 Aug *[AFP]* 47
Future Nuclear Reactor Plans Detailed *[Islamabad Radio]* 47

Iran

Hashemi-Rafanjani Addresses Majlis Session *[Tehran Radio]* 48
Mahdi Karrubi Elected New Majlis Speaker *[IRNA]* 48
Majlis Deputies Urge Impeachment of Nabavi *[IRNA]* 49
Khamene'i Appoints Yazdi Head of Judiciary *[Tehran Radio]* 49
Yazdi Message to Khamene'i *[IRNA]* 50
Commentary on Khamene'i's Address to POW's *[Tehran TV]* 50
U.S. Must Condemn Israel, Release Assets *[IRNA]* 51
Editorial Says U.S. Responsible for Lebanon *[ETTELA'AT 4 Aug]* 52

Nepal

Student Rally Denounces Indian Trade Blockade *[AFP]* 52
Parliamentarians Blame India *[AFP]* 53
Donor Countries Asked for Aid *[AFP]* 53
Army Cargo Planes Crash on Nepalgunj Runway *[AFP]* 53
Veteran Critic of Prime Minister Resigns *[AFP]* 54

Pakistan

Reportage on Ethnic Violence; Curfew Imposed 54
5 Dead in Karachi Clashes *[AFP]* 54
Death Toll Rises to 8 *[AFP]* 54
Press Note on Anniversary of Ziaul Haq's Death 55
Koran Recitation Permitted *[Islamabad Radio]* 55
'Tense' Political Atmosphere *[AFP]* 55
Bonn Unhappy With U.S. F-16 Deal With Country *[Hamburg DER SPIEGEL 24 Jul]* 56

Sri Lanka

Delhi TV Reports 34 Killed in Fresh Violence 56
Minister Admits 'Excesses' by Security Forces *[AFP]* 56
JVP Strike Grips Country; Premadasa Urges Peace *[AFP]* 57
Premadasa on Revision of New Delhi Proposals *[Colombo International]* 58
Northeast Chief Favors Delhi, Colombo Peace Plan *[Delhi Radio]* 58
Premadasa Determined To 'Revamp Mess' *[SUN 1 Aug]* 58
Wijeratne Criticizes Opposition's Bandaranaike *[Colombo International]* 59
Jayewardene Supports Withdrawal of Indian Troops *[Colombo International]* 59

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab Committee Appeals for Lebanon Cease-Fire

LD1508223289 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2137 GMT 15 Aug 89

[Text] Jeddah, 15 Aug, (SPA)—Foreign ministers of the Arab higher tripartite committee member states issued the following communique today:

The foreign ministers of the Arab higher tripartite committee member states, after intensive consultations between their states, are appalled and pained by the large-scale, unprecedented deterioration of the security situation in Lebanon recently, accompanied by tragedies and destruction impossible to describe or define, at the expense of innocent citizens of various leanings and in the various areas where they may be, in terms of bloodshed, destruction, and continuous daily suffering. Life in this Arab country has turned into a blazing hell, burning all, near and far.

The foreign ministers of the Arab higher tripartite committee member states put on record their deep regret and great sorrow over the innocent victims who are falling every day in the torrent of this deterioration of the security situation that has blocked all efforts and endeavors made to contain it and bring it under control to pave the way for a new era in Lebanon where justice, peace, and prosperity might prevail.

We express our highest condemnation of this tragic situation which fraternal Lebanon is experiencing, and we urge all the concerned parties to transcend all the considerations and aims that may stand in the way of putting an end to this deterioration of the security situation, by an immediate and overall cease-fire, and by concentrating all their efforts and objectives toward one single and common direction aimed at saving themselves and their countries from a fate that threatens all of them, without exception.

The foreign ministers, in making this humanitarian appeal, are motivated by their conviction that the current fighting is futile and has no acceptable or reasonable justification.

Arabs 'To Internationalize' Lebanon Crisis

JN1508140689 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 15 Aug 89

[Randah Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] Our radio has learned from a Western diplomatic source in Amman that the UN Security Council will be invited to convene before the end of this week to discuss the Lebanese issue. The source said that in the absence of an inter-Arab accord on a solution to the Lebanese issue, the majority of the Arab countries have supported the idea to convene the UN Security Council and, consequently to internationalize the Lebanese crisis in the wake of the recent fierce military escalation in Lebanon.

The UN Security Council session will come about either through UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar on the basis of Article 99 of the UN Charter, or through UN Security Council members which believe in the need to convene such a session.

The source said he expects the session to issue an appeal to all parties to the Lebanese dispute to agree to a cease-fire and to set a date for it. The UN Security Council session will be a standing session and will meet whenever needed to follow up on the situation in Lebanon.

Jordan recently proposed sending an Arab peacekeeping force to Lebanon in which 10 countries, including Syria, will be equally represented to share the responsibility of confronting the Israeli expansionist designs. Amman is of the opinion that an Arab presence of this type will give a positive impetus to the intra-Lebanese accord for the election of a president of the Republic, for carrying out constitutional reforms, and for forming a national government.

A responsible source has stated that, had it been implemented, this proposal would have given Lebanon and the Arabs in general some leverage with which to appeal to the international community to implement UN Security Council Resolution 425 on the Israeli forces' withdrawal from Lebanese territory, in addition to the withdrawal of the other foreign forces, including the Iranian forces.

ACC Information Ministers Meet in Baghdad

JN1108185489 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 11 Aug 89

[Excerpt] The culture and information ministers of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] began their first meeting in Baghdad this evening. The culture and information ministers of the ACC states—Iraq, Egypt, Jordan, and the Yemen Arab Republic—will lay down a unified media and cultural strategy for the ACC states and endorse the agreement of common cultural and media cooperation. [passage omitted]

Saddam Addresses Ministers

JN1208203289 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 12 Aug 89

[Excerpt] His Excellency President leader Saddam Husayn has affirmed that any group that works as a single work team guided by a line of understanding based on willingness to reassess and review any remark made out of a feeling emanating from team spirit is expected to realize our hopes.

At a reception accorded to the culture and information ministers of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] member states, his excellency the president said: Understanding prevails among you, and you are bound by fraternal links and sentiments; this is more important than anything else. God willing, we hope that your efforts will produce an abundance of good things. Your role regarding guiding public opinion is well known. Here, we are not referring to indoctrination; no, we are referring to the guiding and enlightening role which would reveal things, thus eliciting the enthusiasm of the public when this public views steps from their historical perspective.

His excellency the president leader added: There are firm instructions in Iraq to the effect that first steps on the ladder must always be welcome. Any steps taken to promote these first steps by the brothers when first steps are taken or later are always welcome and well received. [passage omitted]

Agreement Reached

JN1308113189 Baghdad INA in English 1030 GMT 13 Aug 89

[Text] Baghdad, Aug. 13, INA—Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) ministers of information have agreed to coordinate information policies and give priority in newscasts and programs to the political and economic events in the four member states, Iraq, Egypt, Jordan and North Yemen.

This was stipulated in an agreement on information and cultural cooperation between the ACC member-states signed here on Saturday [12 August] after a series of two-day meetings in Baghdad by the ministers of information of the four countries. The council was proclaimed in Baghdad in February this year.

The ACC countries are also to exchange radio and television news-letters and draw a time-table for their transmission. They will co-produce TV series and programs to acquaint council countries' nationals of the achievements and the cultural heritage and tradition. Radio and TV stations in the four countries are to coordinate in transmitting national sports and social activities directly on air.

The council's TV and radio stations are to be connected to a unified microwave network and a study will be conducted on the unification of technical specifications of equipment used in TV and radio stations.

As far as the ACC news agencies are concerned, the agreement provides that a great expansion in news and reports exchange should be realized among the members. These agencies are to enhance professional and technical cooperation among their offices and their correspondents abroad so that a greater integration could be achieved. Each ACC country will offer press and technical assistance for the other countries news agencies' offices and correspondents.

As far as information and media action abroad is concerned, the authorities concerned will coordinate their policies in this regard and the ministers agreed on how to set their priorities.

According to the agreement, the information departments and offices of each member-state should work towards better coordination with cultural centers of the other ACC countries abroad. These centers should serve the interests of the other ACC countries which do not have centers in the foreign country concerned.

ACC countries are to exchange information on foreign media circles' attitudes and stances towards joint issues of ACC countries.

The four countries are also to cooperate in cinema and theatre fields by exchanging visits by artists' delegations and troupes and popular bands. Films and documentaries produced in these countries are to be exchanged.

The council countries are also to exchange experience in antiquities as well as visits by experts so as to cooperate in means of expanding and maintaining museums and archaeological digging.

Egypt's Al-Sharif Cited

JN1208112289 Baghdad INA in English 1045 GMT 12 Aug 89

[Text] Baghdad, Aug. 12, INA—Mr. Safwat al-Sharif, Egyptian information minister said that the agreement of joint information and cultural cooperation among the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) member states, which was reached during the first meeting of the ACC ministers of information and cutlure, stressed the close fraternal relations among the four countries.

In a statement to INA Mr. al-Sharif said that this agreement came as a result of great joint cultural and information action and as a result of good effort of the Iraqi Ministry of Culture and Information in particular as well as the efforts of the Ministries of Culture and Information in Egypt, Jordan and the Yemen Arab Republic. He said that this agreement would set the way before the mediamen to continue their constructive role to develop the information and finally the Arab citizens in these countries.

Mr. Safwat al-Sharif said that this agreement aimed at enabling the information to convey the message and to unify the views to create an aware society that can build a new era of renaissance during a stage when the Arab

information faces big challenges as a result of the developments witnessed by technology and the revolution in the communications systems as well as foreign cultural invasion.

He said that the stand of Arab information in support of the Iraqi information was a well known historical stand throughout all the stages of struggle of the Iraqi people up to the highest level realized for the Iraqis nowadays under the leadership of President Saddam Husayn.

The Egyptian minister added that the Arab information was continuously following up the victories acheived in Iraq throughout the previous years of war.

He said, "We were confident that the Arab people in Iraq will emerge victorious because it was defending the right and because the right was on its side. Thus, the result of this conflict was the victory of the will of good over the will of evil."

Jordan's Al-Majali Comments

JN1408125889 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 14 Aug 89

[Excerpt] Culture and Information Minister Nasuh al-Majali said following his return from Baghdad today that the meetings of the information ministers of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] have produced a joint information strategy of action based on a clear content of the information and cultural machinery and a true understanding of the aims of the ACC member states. The plan, he added, seeks to deepen the pan-Arab significance and the joint Arab dimension in the informational work as well as to invest this effort in the advancement of the interests of the ACC countries and Arab causes in general. The strategy takes a comprehensive view of informational action dedicating it to all the activities covered by the ACC and conveying and explaining its objectives to the outside world as well as joining the overall Arab media effort to promote Arab causes and counter drives hostile to the ACC states and the Arab nation. [passage omitted]

AL-WAFD Report on Arab Summit Denied

LD1508210189 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1903 GMT 15 Aug 89

[Text] Riyadh, 15 Aug (SPA)—The Egyptian paper AL-WAFD reported in its today's issue that an extraordinary Arab summit is scheduled to be held in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in the coming days.

To clarify the situation a responsible source told SPA today "there is no truth at all in the report published by the mentioned newspaper in this respect." He added that "the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia had on several occasions said that it will be the one which fixes the date for the convening of the ordinary Arab summit in the Kingdom when it finds the suitable conditions for holding it."

Islamic Affairs

ICO Chief Calls For End to Lebanon Strife

LD1508195989 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1912 GMT 15 Aug 89

[Excerpts] Jeddah, 15 Aug (SPA)—Dr Hamid al-Ghabid, secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO], has addressed an urgent appeal to all the parties in the Lebanese conflict for an immediate halt to what he called "the bloody confrontation between brothers, for putting an end to foreign interference in Lebanon, and for the unification of the ranks of our Lebanese brothers." He added, in a statement issued today by the ICO General Secretariat, that this fierce and inhumane war has transformed Lebanon into a field of ruins and destruction. The Secretariat confirmed that the continuing deterioration in conditions inevitably is liable to cause comprehensive destruction to Lebanon, which always had been prosperous and full of vitality. The ICO called on all Lebanese to close ranks, and he appealed to all groups to bravely shoulder their responsibilities toward the Lebanese people. [passage omitted]

The ICO appealed to the Arab League's tripartite higher committee to continue its good offices and noble efforts in order to secure a lasting peace in Lebanon, and to preserve its unity, territorial integrity, independence, and sovereignty. It urged the international community, especially the permanent members of the UN Security Council, to support the mediation efforts of the Arab higher tripartite committee.

Turkey, Bulgaria Agree on Muslim Minority Plan

JN1508175489 Manama WAKH in English 1610 GMT 15 Aug 89

[Excerpt] Doha, Aug 156 (GNA)—The Secretary General of the Islamic Conference Organization (ICO) Dr. Hamid al-Ghabid, has said the Turkish and Bulgarian presidents have agreed in principle on a proposal by H.H. the Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad for settling the Muslim Turkish minority problem in Bulgaria.

In an interview he gave to the Qatari newspapers "AL-RAYAH" and "AL-SHARQ" published today the ICO chief further said a team comprising of a number of ICO member states foreign ministers are currently in Turkey for discussing prospects for solving the problems.

Al-Ghabid underlined the ICO continued support for the Palestinian intifadah [uprising]. He also stressed the ICO backing for efforts by the Arab tripartite committee to find a settlement to the Lebanese crisis.

On countering missionary campaigns in Africa, Al-Ghabid said this is made through setting up mosques, Islamic centers, schools and institutions. A fund for the purpose has been set up, he said. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs

'Abd-Rabbuh, Pelletreau Comment After Talks

JN1508190189 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 15 Aug 89

[Text] The fourth round of the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue was held yesterday at noon at the Guest House in the Tunisian capital's suburb of Carthage. The Palestinian side was represented by the brothers Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, member of PLO Executive Committee; Hakam Bal'awi, member of the Fatah Central Committee and the ambassador of the state of Palestine in Tunis; and Abu-Ja'far ['Abd-al-Latif Abu-Hijlah], director of the PLO Political Department. The U.S. side was represented by Mr Robert Pelletreau, the U.S. ambassador in Tunis; (?Don Kishen), the second ranking man at the embassy; and [name indistinct], the embassy's political adviser.

The fourth round of talks, which is being held on request of the U.S. side, lasted for about 3 ½ hours.

PLO Executive Committee Member Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh made the following statement after the talks:

This is the fourth meeting in the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue. In this meeting, the PLO presented its point of view concerning the various issues under discussion pertaining to the peace process. We wish to affirm anew that the PLO still believes that the appropriate framework within which to develop matters toward peace is the international conference. The ideas presented by numerous international forces, the latest of which was the EEC, concerning preparations for convening the international conference and the importance of the PLO's participation in all stages of the peace process are, as far as we and world opinion are concerned, the real starting point leading to actual progress.

Brother Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh adds: Therefore, the PLO does not consider in any way that elections could form a basis for a political settlement. What could form a basis for the settlement is what was agreed on by international legitimacy; that is, ending Israeli occupation and giving the Palestinian people their right to self-determination. We still call on the U.S. Administration to take this course to proceed with the peace process seriously and effectively.

On the other hand, we believe—and we have affirmed this and so has the Arab summit in Casablanca—that Shamir's plan is useless for advancing the peace process. In fact, contrary to that, this plan eliminates the present opportunities to achieve peace in the Middle East. The major and important issue is that there be an effective U.S. and international stand against the Israeli oppression and terrorism policy which is being practiced against our Palestinian people. We stressed this point. We believe that this is a basic and vital issue in the face of the increasing killing and terrorism our people are being subjected to daily inside the occupied territories.

We could say that there are opportunities to hold other meetings in the near future to continue discussion of all the issues which we dealt with today.

Following is the text of the U.S. ambassador's statement: The meeting today is the fourth official meeting of the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue. As we said recently, the United States considers this dialogue to be a tool of our diplomacy which aims to activate and develop the peace process in the Middle East. Our aim from this process remains to formulate an understanding reached by us through discussions based on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. We will continue this effort on the basis of firm principles; namely, trading land for peace, security, recognizing Israel, and recognizing the Palestinian people's political rights.

Our task now is to find a practical way to translate these principles into a political reality. The last session of our talks today centered around this goal. Our talks were serious and mature. We clarified our conviction that the Palestinians have to respond to the challenge of establishing peace and not to continue the past conflict. There is a way for peace in the Middle East. We propose that the next, but not last, corner stone of this road be elections in the occupied territories. Such elections are the starting signal which satisfies the Palestinians and the Israelis. They could lead to the process of political negotiations which could start by changing the basic stands and lead to an acceptable solution. There is an opportunity to display the fruits of our dialogue; however, that requires courageous and careful diplomatic decisions.

I take this opportunity once again to thank President Ben Ali and his government for facilitating these meetings, especially our meeting today.

Abu-Sharif Faults U.S. Silence on 'Massacres'

JN1508184289 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 15 Aug 89

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat's special adviser Bassam Abu-Sharif today accused Israel of perpetrating massacres against Palestinians and he held U.S. silence responsible for what he termed a contribution to these crimes.

On another subject, Abu-Sharif said the Syrian regime's massacre against the Lebanese people is a tragedy that cannot be ignored. It is being perpetrated while the Israeli forces are committing their crimes against the Palestinian people, he said. Abu-Sharif concluded: It is high time the international community, and Europe in particular, took serious action to stop these crimes. He accused Damascus of playing a grave and destructive role that serves only Israel and the enemies of the Arab nation, as he put it.

'Arafat Asks Palestinians To Use Jordanian Dinar

NC1508192489 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 15 Aug 89

[Text] A high-ranking PLO source has stated that Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat has issued orders telling the inhabitants of the occupied Palestinian territories not to use the Israeli shekel in Arab markets, but to use only the Jordanian dinar.

More on 'Arafat's Instructions

JN1608100889 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 16 Aug 89 pp 1, 13

[By Sa'id al-Silawi]

[Text] Amman—A responsible Palestinian source in Amman yesterday stated that Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, had issued instructions to Palestinian citizens in the occupied territories asking them to use only the Jordanian dinar, and not the Israeli shekel.

In an exclusive statement to SAWT AL-SHA'B, the Palestinian source said that the Palestinian leader's instructions are aimed at foiling Zionist plans to deal a blow to the heroic intifadah [uprising] through waging a war against Jordan's economy and spreading false rumors against the Jordanian dinar, which is used by the overwhelming majority of the Palestinian citizens.

The source affirmed that the instructions, which were conveyed to the Unified National Leadership of the Intifadah and which will be disseminated among the Palestinian people inside the occupied territories, are aimed at alerting Palestinian citizens to Israel's exposed attempts to contain the brave intifadah and damage our kinfolk's steadfastness in the occupied homeland.

On another level, the source expected Yasir 'Arafat to visit Jordan within the next 48 hours to meet with His Majesty King Husayn and senior Jordanian officials. He will also open the permanent headquarters of the Palestine National Fund [PNF] following the Jordanian Government's recent agreement to move the PNF's headquarters to Amman.

In another development, Palestine National Council Speaker Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih welcomed the statement made by the U.S. State Department spokesman that the U.S. Government insists on continuing the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue in order to give momentum to the peace process in the Middle East and that the U.S. position is based on the land for peace principle.

In an exclusive statement to SAWT AL-SHA'B, Shaykh al-Sa'ih added that this is a positive and advanced U.S. position, but stops short of the PLO's desire for pressuring Israel into withdrawing from the Palestinian territories, stressing the need for the U.S. position to be clearer and more positive.

Shaykh al-Sa'ih also said that despite objection to the U.S. bias toward the Israeli occupation authorities, he hopes the United States will adopt a definite position on the Arab-Israeli conflict stemming from its sense of great responsibility and to avert the catastrophes of a destructive war affecting world peace.

He added that this will enhance the U.S. prestige in the eyes of its people and in front of its friends, who want the United States to adopt a distinguished, moral, political, and international position on international crises, foremost of which is the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Al-Hasan Confirms Rabin's Message to 'Arafat

JN1508143889 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1400 GMT 15 Aug 89

[Text] Khalid al-Hasan said today in Tunis that Yasir 'Arafat did actually receive a message from Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin some time ago. However, Khalid al-Hasan did not eleborate on how this message was sent to Yasir 'Arafat and said nothing about its contents.

More on Al-Hasan Confirmation

JN1508191089 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1715 GMT 15 Aug 89

[Text] Fatah Central Committee Member Khalid al-Hasan said in Tunis today that Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin sent a letter to PLO Leader Yasir 'Arafat. Al-Hasan said: We did actually receive a letter. However, he did not specify the channel through which it came. He also did not give any details on the contents of the letter. He said: This is Rabin's right alone.

The Egyptian magazine UKTUBAR was the first to report on this letter, which it had described as an urgent letter. The magazine said that in the letter Rabin proposed principles on the basis of which the discussion of the settlement of the Palestinian settlement should take place. He also said he is ready to meet with a Palestinian delegation from the occupied territories. Khalid al-Hasan said that the Fatah Movement has neither prohibited, nor placed restrictions on Palestinian-Israeli contacts. He said: On the contrary, the contacts with Israeli figures outside the occupied territories may be broadened. Al-Hasan affirmed that the number and influence of Israelis who accept the PLO's positions, recognize Palestinian national rights, and call for an Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank and the Gaza, is increasing daily.

Egypt Reportedly Conveyed Message

JN1508151289 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 14 Aug 89 p 1

[Text] Tunis—Informed Palestinian sources have affirmed to AL-ANBA' that Yasir 'Arafat did actually receive a message from enemy War Minister Yitzhaq Rabin on the principles of settlement in the region as approved by the Israeli Labor Party.

The sources added that the Egyptian Government conveyed the message to 'Arafat, although Rabin and Salah Khalaf denied the report.

Call No 44's 'Important Points' Detailed

JN1508192489 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1700 GMT 15 Aug 89

[Text] Dear brother strugglers: Call No 44 has been issued by the popular and national committees in Palestine. Following are the most important points in the call:
—Wednesday 16 August will be a day of comprehensive strike to mark the first anniversary of Ansar-3 massacre; express solidarity with prisoners and captives; and call for the closure of the genocide detention camps.
—18 and 25 August are days of action by the Palestinian bank workers, who will refrain from working at Zionist institutions in solidarity with Gaza workers and their refusal to receive the magnetic cards. Taking the jobs of workers who go on strike should be considered national treason.
—31 August will be observed as a day of comprehensive strike to mark the anniversary of the burning of al-Aqsa mosque.
—28 August will be devoted to information—seminars and news conferences will be held to expose the policy of the Zionist enemy and the ramifications of its oppressive practices.
—1 September will be a day of popular learning in which students will make up for the loss caused by the strike of 21 August. The policy of stultification will be resisted.
—2 through 4 September will be days of militant national escalation against the Zionist forces.

Islamic Jihad in Territories Issues Statement

JN1508205489 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1600 GMT 15 Aug 89

["Text" of statement issued by the Islamic Jihad Movement and distributed in Gaza; date not given]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Addendum 21, the call of al-Buraq and al-Aqsa.

Prophet Muhammad, may God's peace and blessings be upon him, said: Part of my nation still preaches justice and is not harmed by those who disagree with it. They said: Where are they? He said: In Jerusalem and its vicinity.

Masses of our militant Palestinian people, from one stage to the other of your blessed intifadah [uprising] you do not only prove the possibility to pursue your brilliant struggle but also score one victory after the other. Your blessed intifadah has triumphed over the starvation policy. It has also triumphed over the policy seeking to divide ranks. It triumphed over the policy of siege and containment. It triumphed over the enemy army's command whose generals left their posts in despair and disarray. Now, you triumph in the most splendid battles of the intifadah, the battle of education. Our people's steadfastness and determination to pursue their heroic intifadah have defeated Shamir and Rabin on the doors of our beloved schools in our dear [West] Bank. Thousands of our people's pupils and students returned to their classes. Greetings to our students who are reaffirming from their desks that blood has triumphed over the sword, that the chairs have triumphed over the guns, and that the glimmer of hope, life, and freedom has triumphed over the Zionist death machine, oppression, and repression.

O masses of our steadfast people, the lessons learned from the battle of education will undoubtedly remain vivid in our minds all along the various stages of our struggle with the enemy. Concessions were not the ones which had made our students return to their schools. The promises to appease matters, the meetings with the command of the criminal enemy, and the settlement plans were the ones which were behind the reopening of schools. The schools were reopened by the determination to pursue the struggle. It was the blood of the martyrs and the wounded which defeated the enemy forces and forced them to retreat. If our blessed intifadah is to achieve its objectives, this will not be attained through the secret meetings in Shamir's office, or through apologizing for our historical demands for our right to our country, or through the naive attempts to hold a dialogue with the so-called moderate Zionist figures. Our people are dutybound to pursue their mighty revolution from one stage to the other, igniting the spark of resurgence in the region and the Islamic world until the balance of powers tips in favor of our rights and nation.

O kinfolk and brothers in the heroic West Bank and the Gaza Strip, the education battle has not yet ended. We must remain in a state of maximum alert, and teach our sons even during weekends and holidays not to give the treacherous enemy any opportunity in the future to stultify our sons, or impose an education siege on us. We must also remain alert to the enemy's schemes which are currently being prepared in cooperation with international powers to resettle the refugees, and dismantle the camps. Let every part of our sacred soil become a ball of fire and a torch of the revolution in the face of the enemy, its forces, its settlers, and institutions. Let us stalk into the bushes, farms, plants, and factories as we are stalking them in the streets and alleys:

1. The proclamation of Tuesday, 15 August, the 51st anniversary of the weeklong al-Buraq intifadah—the

first comprehensive intifadah against the British occupation—and the Zionist attempt to capture the blessed al-Aqsa as a day of confrontation.

2. To consider every Friday immediately following Friday prayers as a day of comprehensive confrontation, and to celebrate 25 August as a special day for greeting the detained struggler your daughter 'Itaf 'Alayayan, on the second anniversary of her incarceration on charges of preparing to carry out a suicide operation against the enemy government's headquarters in Jerusalem.

3. The proclamation of Monday, 21 August, as the 21st anniversary of the setting on fire of al-Aqsa mosque, as a day during which we will affirm that we—men, women, children, and elders—will stand up as guardians of the nation's holy places against the barbaric and ugly invasion and as a day for escalation and confrontation.

Greetings to our people's martyrs, wounded, and detainees. Long live Palestine as an Islamic and Arab country that will be liberated from the river to the ocean, God willing. God is great, and loftiness to Islam.

[signed] The Islamic Jihad Movement, Palestine, Jerusalem.

Hawatimah Interviewed on PLO, Jordanian Policy

JN1208185689 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic
11 Aug 89 p 14

[Interview with Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) in Damascus; date not given]

[Text] [AL-BAYAN] How does Nayif Hawatimah view relations between the DFLP and the PLO? Is it fair to say that all differences between the two have been resolved?

[Hawatimah] The PLO is a broad-based, political, national coalition grouping various ideological, political, and organizational trends in the ranks of our Palestinian people and Palestinian factions within the PLO.

It was no coincidence that the Unified National Leadership of the Intifadah [uprising] should be composed of the principal factions of the PLO, it being an extension of the Palestinian people's ranks.

Each Palestinian faction has a political, militant, and organizational perspective of its own in terms of national liberation, perception of political tactics, and modes of action. However, the PLO factions have in common a joint national program that specifies the common ground without necessarily meaning freezing disagreements.

As far as we in the DFLP are concerned, we have, over the past 20 years, worked toward a resolution of these contradictions in the context of joint institutions in the spirit of discipline and adherence to the joint national agenda. We have nipped in the bud all attempts to deviate from this program, whether from the left or the right. Otherwise, Palestininan national unity would have suffered and the struggle of our people would have been undermined at a time they need to put up stiff resistance to wrest their independence and freedom and bolster their national unity, which can only be furthered by honoring the joint program and democratic practice. We have, over the years, kept up our resolve to regain the Palestinian national unity that was enhanced first through the resumed dialogue between our movement and Fatah and then through the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and the Palestine Liberation Front, along with the vast majority of the Palestinian national figures, later joining in the dialogue.

These developments led to a return to national unity at the Palestine National Council [PNC] unionist session in Algiers, which accelerated the eruption of the intifadah a few months later. National unity has throughout constituted a vast umbrella for the struggle of our people, and now it underpins the intifadah. We would like to make absolutely clear, though, that differences remain within the PLO and that these cannot possibly be eliminated by a bureaucratic decision or by the domination of one party over another in the Palestinian arena. These differences derive from different perspectives on the joint national program and on tactics and modes of action. For example, these disagreements came to the fore when we stood against an announcement on ['Arafat's] preparedness to visit occupied Jerusalem and continued economic relations between the Zionist entity and Lebanon and negotiations in the region before going to the international conference in Geneva. These postures of ours are an expression of a resolve on our part to defend the PLO's joint agenda, since we are a major partner in its leadership and so we cannot allow our rights there to be confiscated.

The disagreements always come as a result of our demands for the implementation of the resolutions adopted by the PNC unity meeting in Algiers in 1987 concerning the democratic reforms of the PLO institutions and the formation of a collective working leadership to deal with day-to-day affairs. The glorious intifadah came to lay down the formula of the national and democratic relations within the framework of the Unified National Leadership, which groups the popular committees. This showed once again the importance of reforming the PLO institutions in a spirit of democracy and unity. Every day, the intifadah demands promotion of all forms of struggle; it demands support for it and for all Palestinians in all their places. The Unified National Leadership feels the incompetence of many PLO political and diplomatic institutions, and this strongly poses the necessity of broad political and democratic reforms in the PLO institutions and the need for rebuilding the popular Palestinian organizations so that they can renew their relations with their broad social bases.

These points of disagreement between us and the PLO, which have not yet been resolved, are basically political

issues. The solution requires adherence to and implementation of the collective resolutions and the principle of proportional representation in all PLO institutions and Palestinian mass organizations.

[AL-BAYAN] Some believe that the Palestinian political program has seen concessions for the past 2 and ½ years. You in the DFLP bear part of the responsibility, although you are part of the main structure of the PLO leadership. What do you say to this? And what are the red lines that the DFLP refuses to cross?

[Hawatimah] Since the PLO national program was accomplished in 1974, going through all the events and developments until today, there have been taboos that we could not have broken. There are constants that should not be ignored, foremost of which are the rights to repatriation, self-determination, and the establishment of the Palestinian institutions on the land of Palestine. Since the provisional program was adopted until this date, there have been pressures to drive us to retreat from the right to self-determination and to confine the Palestine question to the destiny of only part of the Palestinian people—namely, the residents of the occupied West Bank and Gaza. We, therefore, should be aware of and confront this threat and develop our struggle to guarantee the right of return for all our people in accordance with the UN resolutions. We cannot possibly accept the recognition of the rights of part of the Palestinian people and remain ignorant of the rights of the other part. We cannot accept integrating and melting the majority of the Palestinian people in Arab and foreign countries through so-called resettlement. We cannot sell out our sacred irreversible right to build the independent state. This right has repeatedly been subjected to encroachments. We cannot abandon our right to independent representation of this people within the framework of cooperation with all Arab countries on the bases of the Arab summit resolutions and the international resolutions that secure our people's right to independence and self-determination. We should insist on the achievement of a balanced and comprehensive solution to the Middle East crisis and its essence, the Palestine question, and on the rejection of all bilateral and individual deals under any shape. Washington and Tel Aviv are now working toward such deals in an attempt to undermine the Palestinian people's right to repatriation, self-determination, and independence, and to go even below the national program; namely, something between autonomy under occupation and regional compromise on the basis of dividing the West Bank, Jerusalem, and Gaza. Therefore, we should seek to achieve a just and comprehensive solution in the framework of an effective international conference under the auspices of the United Nations and with the attendence of the five permanent Security Council member states and the PLO in its capacity as the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. The conference should guarantee our right to repatriation in accordance with the UN resolutions, our right to build the independent state on the land of Palestine, and the right of the Arab countries to regain all their territories that were occupied in June 1967 aggression. The international conference should also make security arrangements for the state of Palestine and all states of the region.

The great political process launched by the intifadah and the PNC's November resolutions, which were endorsed by the recent Casablanca summit, dictate that factors for the protection of the Palestinian people's rights must be secured, that Arab solidarity must be enhanced, and that the PLO's relations with each Arab state must be normalized on the basis of the Casablanca summit resolutions and on the basis of not allowing the United States and Israel to exploit differences among the frontline forces; that is, Palestine, Jordan, Syria, Egypt, and Lebanon. Efforts must be made to hold a meeting among these five Arab parties to help encircle Washington's maneuvers, which seek to toy with these forces and to exert separate pressures on each of them, and also to bring pressure to bear on West Europe to make it recognize the state of Palestine and the PLO's representative status. Such a meeting must also result in applying pressure on the United States to make it abandon its support for the Israeli elections plan, which seeks to split and weaken the PLO. The best example for this support was provided by the recent visit to the region by John Kelly, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern Affairs—the visit which took him to Egypt, Jordan, and the Zionist entity, thus overlooking the PLO.

In this regard, we stress the need for normalizing the PLO's ties with Syria on the basis of the Casablanca summit resolutions to help ensure the holding of a meeting among these five Arab parties and also to help the Palestinian people in Lebanon and Syria play their roles through rallying resources and capabilities against the Zionist enemy.

[AL-BAYAN] The event of the hour for the DFLP is its announcement a few days ago that it dissolved itself in Jordan and formed the Jordan Democratic People's Party [JDPP]. What are the reasons behind this announcement? And does this mean that the new party will take part in the parliamentary elections Jordan intends to hold soon?

[Hawatimah] The decision made by Jordan on 31 July 1988 to sever legal and administrative ties with the occupied Palestinian bank came as a culmination of protracted Jordanian and Palestinian struggles. This step has contributed to consecrating the Palestinian national identity and its rights to express itself, to secure the right to self-determination, and to build the institutions of the state of Palestine on Palestinian national soil. Besides, this step also expressed Jordan's support for the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and to speak for themselves. Moreover, this step opened the door for a reformulation of the Palestinian-Jordanian ties, considering that Jordan delineated its national role in

defense of its territory as well as its pan-Arab role in defense of the Palestine question, along with the Palestinian people and other Arab states.

The disengagement decision placed the Palestinians and Jordanians in a new situation that required correct answers from both sides. Consequently, the PLO, with all of its factions, had to supply an answer to the intifadah's call. This answer was given after 4 months of Palestinian dialogues; it took the form of the PNC's November 1988 session resolutions, which centered on three aspects: proclamation of the state of Palestine: announcing the political and organizational bases for the expanded national coalition to be observed when a provisional government for the state of Palestine is formed; and launching, at this phase, the Palestinian political initiative, which has a comprehensive and balanced perspective regarding the Middle East conflict and its crux, the Palestine question.

Jordanian and Palestinian forces in Jordan have had to come up with a response to the disengagement decision. Just as the PLO, through the PNC, has had to reformulate the relations between the state of Palestine and the Arab countries on the basis of independence and Arab summit resolutions, Jordanian forces have had to respond. And so, dialogues centering on the subject got underway in Jordan. The DFLP and other groups and figures in Jordan took the initiative in giving the answer to the disengagement decision and reformulating Palestinian-Jordanian relations on a sound basis to accommodate the PNC decisions and those of the Algiers and Casablanca summits.

In concert with a number of groups and figures, the DFLP then developed its national and pan-Arab program and statutes to reflect the independent Jordanian personality and in keeping with the call of the intifadah, the disengagement decision, and Arab summit resolutions. This was the background for the takeoff of the JDPP.

We think that confirming the disengagement decision and the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and building the infrastrucutre of a Palestinian state on Palestinian soil clearly mean a reformulation of the brotherly ties between the Palestinian and Jordanian peoples on a sound basis that accommodates the right of the Palestinian people to repatriation, self-determination, independence, and separate representation in accordance with Palestinian resolutions since 1974 as well as the Arab summit resolutions since the Rabat and Casablanca summits and the intifadah and the disengagement. This way the JDPP will get down to business in the Jordanian arena and champion the interests of the Palestinian and Jordanian peoples in the economic, social, and nationalist spheres.

We expect all Palestinian and Jordanian forces in Jordan to follow the example set by the JDPP to serve the national interests of the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples and to bolster Arab solidarity in the interest of the Arabs' foremost cause—the Palestinian cause.

[AL-BAYAN] The DFLP was recently reported to have appointed an official representative in Cairo. How true is this report, and what are the political implications of the move?

[Hawatimah] As a major faction in the Palestinian arena and the PLO, the DFLP has contributed in a large way to the resolutions of last November. And given that the Casablanca summit resolutions call for a normalization of relations between the PLO and its component factions on the one hand and Arab countries on the other, we have decided to normalize ties with the Arab states, including Egypt, as this will serve to enhance the national and pan-Arab struggle. After all, the Egyptian Government recognized the PLO as the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and extended full recognition to the state of Palestine and declared its commitment to the Casablanca summit resolutions in letter and spirit.

Egypt

Shamir Asks U.S. To Broker Mubarak Meeting

JN1508143089 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic
13 Aug 89 p 1

[By 'Abd-al-Nabi 'Abd-al-Sattar]

[Text] Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has asked U.S. President George Bush to contact Cairo to convince President Husni Mubarak of the need to hold an Egyptian-Israeli summit on the sidelines of the meetings of the forthcoming UN General Assembly [UNGA] session in New York at the end of September.

High-level diplomatic sources in Cairo indicated that Shamir affirmed in a message to Washington the need to hold an urgent meeting with President Mubarak to end the current tension in Egyptian-Israeli relations; settle differences between Cairo and Tel Aviv; and to discuss Israel's plan for elections in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, the situation in the occupied Arab territories, and the future of peace in the Middle East.

The sources affirmed that in the event President Mubarak refuses to meet Shamir, he would meet Israeli Foreign Affairs Minister Moshe Arens who will head the Israeli delegation to the UNGA meetings.

The United States earlier asked Egypt not to escalate its attack on Israeli practices in order to maintain Egypt's role as a link between Arab capitals and Tel Aviv. The diplomatic sources revealed that Israeli ambassador in Cairo Shim'on Shamir has recently submitted a report to his government on the deterioration in Egyptian-Israeli relations and his continued isolation on the official, popular, and diplomatic levels. The report also asserted that the Egyptian media continued to assail Israeli practices.

Israeli ADP Leader Cited on Shamir Plan

NC1508110189 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0945 GMT
15 Aug 89

[Text] Cairo, 15 Aug (MENA)—'Abd-al-Wahhab al-Darawishah, leader of the Arab Democratic Party [ADP] in Israel, has asserted that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's plan for elections in the occupied territories is a ploy for evasion and procrastination and an attempt to cover up arbitrary Israeli measures and to step up the repression of the Palestinian people and the psychological pressure on the heroes of the stones. He said that Shamir's statements on peace are contradicted by these practices.

During a meeting last night with a delegation of the National Democratic Party [NDP] representatives led by Dr Ra'fat Khalid, member of the NDP Secretariat, Al-Darawishah said that his party is a legitimate representative of Arab citizens in Israel and that it supports the PLO. He added that his party demands the establishment of a Palestinian state that includes all territory occupied in 1967.

'Abd-al-Wahhab al-Darawishah affirmed that his party is seeking to bolster its ties with all forces for peace in Israel. He added that the party advocates peace and equality among all Israeli citizens, noting that Arabs in Israel are treated like third-class citizens.

Al-Darawishah announced that his party supports the intifadah [uprising] materially and morally, and that it utilizes its legitimate standing in Israeli society for this purpose. He pointed out that leaders of the party have visited people wounded in the intifadah and extended material assistance to them. They have also donated blood, he said. He declared that a party delegation recently visited Nahhalin village, which was the scene of a massacre, and noted that this was done for the purpose of expanding the base of cooperation between the party and the masses who are all Palestinians.

The leader of the ADP in Israel explained that the party is not participating in the intifadah in the sense of throwing stones, but is supporting it and cooperating with all nationalist movements. The party is also making constant protests against the repression of the Palestinians, he said.

Al-Darawishah Meets NDP's Wali

JN1608094589 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic
14 Aug 89 p 6

[By Mazin Mahmud al-Shawwa]

[Text] Dr Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister and secretary general of the National Democratic Party [NDP], yesterday met with 'Abd-al-Wahhab al-Darawishah, leader of the Arab Democratic Party [ADP] and a member of the Israeli Knesset. During the meeting, they discussed ways to strengthen relations between the two parties, exchange visits and contacts, and carry out the two parties' joint activities in order to support the Palestinian people and strengthen their relations with the Egyptian people. They also discussed the situation in the occupied Arab territories in light of the continuation of the intifadah [uprising] against the Israeli occupation. The two sides also tackled the latest developments in the Palestine question and the Middle East.

Following the meeting, Al-Darawishah told AL-AKHBAR that he was completely satisfied with the results of the meeting. He said that Dr Wali showed deep interest in strengthening the NDP's relations with the ADP, which is the first Arab party to be formed in the Israeli arena. Al-Darawishah also praised Egypt and its

role in the region under President Mubarak. The leader of the ADP arrived in Cairo the day before yesterday at the head of a large party delegation on a visit to Egypt lasting several days.

Abu-Talib Conveys Message From Bush to Mubarak
NC1508155589 Cairo MENA in English 1427 GMT 15 Aug 89

[Text] Alexandria, August 15 (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak today received Minister of Defense and Military Production General Yusuf Sabri Abu-Talib who returned from Washington yesterday following a visit to the United States. General Abu-Talib conveyed to the president a verbal message from U.S. President George Bush in reply to a message he conveyed earlier to President Bush from President Mubarak. He also presented to President Mubarak a detailed report on the outcome of his talks in the United States which ran for seven days.

President Mubarak Receives Mitterrand's Envoy
NC1508145789 Cairo MENA in English 1405 GMT 15 Aug 89

[Text] Alexandria, August 15 (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak today received visiting French presidential envoy Thierry de Beauce who arrived here yesterday. The envoy yesterday delivered a message addressed to President Mubarak from President Francois Mitterrand to Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid. The message dealt with the recent French initiative on Lebanon.

U.S. Urged To Accelerate, Elevate PLO Talks
JN1508160689 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 13 Aug 89 p 5

[Editorial: "Shadows Cast on U.S.-Palestinian Dialogue]

[Text] The slow pace and ambiguity shown by the U.S. Administration in its dialogue with the PLO, which was initiated by Washington last December in Tunis, leads many to believe what has recently been repeated in many circles that the U.S. officials were not honest in their intentions when they were forced to enter into an unconditional dialogue with Palestinian officials under the pressure of world opinion, especially of the United States' allies in West Europe.

Those who doubt the honesty of Washington's intentions and wonder about the real goal behind accepting the dialogue with the PLO—which represents the Palestinian people and is led by Yasir 'Arafat—just months after refusing to allow 'Arafat to enter New York to attend the United Nations' meetings, justify their doubts by pointing to the style used by the U.S. Administration in the dialogue with the Palestinians after many years of boycotting and rejecting any contacts with it. Despite the passage of about 9 months since the start of this process, the United States has held a very small number of meetings, not to mention the fact that the level of its representation in these talks has been restricted to its ambassador in Tunis. This suggests that Washington has other secret designs for the dialogue—which is moving at the pace of a tortoise—at a time when the situation is escalating in the Middle East, especially in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip since the courageous intifadah [uprising] which started 1 year before the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue.

The only way in which the U.S. Administration can eliminate the increasing doubts about its serious acceptance of dialogue with the PLO, and its honest desire to attain a just and true peace in the Arab-Israeli conflict, is to change the manner in which it is conducting this dialogue. This should be done by giving a new, strong push to the talks with the Palestinians by increasing the number of meetings, whether in Tunis or other capitals, coupled with raising the level of its representation to the talks, which have now gone beyond the stage of preparing for negotiations on a higher level between the two sides.

Only in this way can Washington refute the accusation that the goal of the slow dialogue is to absorb international pressure and the resentment of world opinion.

Editorial Says Fatah Decision on Plan 'Logical'
JN1208140689 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 10 Aug 89 p 5

[Editorial: "It Is No Use Continuing the Shamir Deception"]

[Text] The resolution issued by the Fatah Movement's fifth congress on conclusion of its session in the Tunisian capital—in which it unanimously declared its rejection of the plan of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir which he claims is a peace plan—is the only resolution that Washington must consider a logical position. This position is taken by representatives of a people who offered all possible concessions and accepted many conditions in order to prove their good intentions and their sincere desire to live in peace on their land and coexist with even those who caused all the suffering and pain to which that people were subjected and which were beyond what any person can tolerate.

The Fatah congress rejected Shamir's proposal to hold elections in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip even before the strange conditions demanded by the Likud bloc hawks were added to it. This is because the proposal in itself—and no matter how much playing with words it included—cannot be accepted by any people because it lacks any guarantees to ensure free and fair elections. Foremost of these guarantees is the withdrawal of occupation forces, which practice terrorism daily, especially since the beginning of the Palestinian intifadah [uprising]. This shows that the necessary atmosphere of

freedom is lacking for any elections that can be recognized by the world community. Also, international supervision is needed in order to make certain that the elections process and the atmosphere in which they are conducted are sound.

The Shamir government's insistence on not providing these guarantees is enough to show its lack of seriousness or desire to reach a peaceful settlement of its conflict with the Palestinian side. This also confirms that the real objective behind the phony elections gambit is to gain or to waste time and to use the plan as a veil to mislead world public opinion, which became more aware of the reality of the Palestine question and the need for the people of Palestine to regain their legitimate rights, as is the case in every other part of the world.

Congress' 'Moderate Course' Hailed

JN1308180089 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic
12 Aug 89 p 7

[Editorial: "How Much Longer...?"]

[Text] Opening Fatah's fifth general congress the other day in Tunis, the Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat's question: How much longer will Palestinian rights be denied? echoed vociferously. Not that the question is being asked by 'Arafat alone. Each and every Arab across the Arab world joins in asking this question. The audience being asked the question includes the major powers, the world conscience, and the parties that pull the strings in the region, most of all the United States as a full partner in the peace process.

It is not just the clamor of millions of Palestinians who have endured as no other human beings have ever done; it is also a call for action by the Palestinians who have set a historical precedent by confronting tanks and the notorious Israeli oppressive machine with stones and bare chests for 20 months on end. Yet the Fatah congress charted a moderate course of action advocating recognition of Israel's existence in exchange for Israel's recognition of Palestinian national rights and consent to the notion of the international conference as the right vehicle for working out a solution.

'Arafat took on the militant camp within Fatah, which argues that short of military action inside and outside the occupied land to avenge the daily martyrs gunned down by Israel, the world will not appreciate the tragedy of the Palestinian people. The reelection of 'Arafat per se marked a victory for the moderate camp that advocates a political solution and an equitable settlement whereby regional stability is restored and the Palestinians will not have to bear the cost on their own. However, for this dovish camp to retain credibility and influence, its efforts and concessions need to be reciprocated. They cannot remain moderate forever. Hence, the Palestinian cry of how much longer? is less a supplication than the expression of their resolve to seize their rights.

Agreement Reportedly Reached With IMF, IBRD

JN1308170489 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic
11 Aug 89 p 7

[By Majid 'Atiyah]

[Text] It may be said that the continuing talks between Egypt and teams from the IMF and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development [IBRD] are virtually complete, having reached agreement on Egypt's huge economic reform plan, especially regarding a readjustment of the customs dollar exchange rate and a reduction in customs tarrifs. Already, the government has achieved a significant decrease in the general state budget deficit to the tune of 3 billion [Egyptian] pounds. Also the flexible exchange rates in the banking market have led to some sort of stability in the prices of foreign currencies, especially the dollar, against the Egyptian pound.

It may be said also that Dr 'Abd-al-Shakur Sha'lan, during a brief visit to Egypt last week, took pains to inform central bank Governor Dr Salah Hamid that the IMF board is satisfied by Egypt's reform program, which encouraged the IBRD to discuss a commodities loan to be used for redressing Egypt's balance of payment's deficit in addition to financing agreed-upon projects.

AL-MUSAWWAR, based on information supplied by sources at the talks, has also learned that negotations over loans are not facing any difficulties. Discussions, however, revolve around two points on which disagreement remains :

The IMF favors another 2-4 percent increase in the interest rate on deposits over the 1-3 percent increase that took effect last June. Egypt's position calls for a new increase of between 1 and 2 percent to take effect with the new year to cushion the investments against the hikes.

The IMF wants a readjustment in the exchange rate (70 piasters) of the dollar at the central bank. It wants this rate to be integrated in the banking market by standardizing the exchange rate once for all. The central bank wants a gradual readjustment until it reaches the level of the banking market price. It proposed that the readjustment begin at 110 piasters.

A compromise accommodation calls for an initial rate of 140 piasters that would go up annually until the exchange rate system is unified. This way the problem of the multiple exchange rate of the Egyptian pound against foreign currencies, especially the dollar, comes to end. Egypt argues its case for a step-by-step approach by saying that it wants to protect low income groups from possible price rises and the resulting higher cost of living.

Islamic Group Leader 'Abd-al-Rahman Released

JN1508163289 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic
13 Aug 89 p 1

[Text] The Interior Ministry released Islamic Group leader Dr 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman at midnight the day before yesterday. The security forces besieged his home immediately upon his arrival there. In a telephone conversation with AL-WAFD, Dr 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman said that the security forces were arresting those who come to visit him.

The security forces also prevented him from performing the dawn prayers at the mosque. Reports were circulated to the effect that the Interior Ministry released all the defendants whose release was ordered by the State Security Court immediately after AL-WAFD published a report saying that they had been rearrested. AL-WAFD also learned that the State Security Investigation Agency released yesterday eight children from amongst those arrested on Wednesday [9 August] while they were returning from a Nile trip to al-Qanatir al-Khayriyah. The rest of the children remained in custody at the Imbabah police station or at the al-Duqqi branch of the State Security Investigation Agency.

NDP Blamed for Hulwan Steel Plant Incidents

JN1308200489 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic
11 Aug 89 p 74

[Article by Mahmud al-Sa'dani: "Search for the National Democratic Party"]

[Text] The problem in the affair of the Hulwan iron and steel plant is that we resorted to the police solution first, when this should have been the last resort. But the government appeared to have taken a short cut, reminding us of the well known joke: Hello... No.

The story goes like this: A man was having dinner in a public place when a beggar passed by him. The beggar said: Hello, and the diner replied: No. The beggar blamed him for not answering his greeting, but the diner replied: I have cut short the dialogue: You said hello, and I would have said Hello. You would then have asked: How are you? And I would have answered: Very well, thank you. You would have then asked: What are you doing? And I would have answered: Dining. Then you would have asked: Shall I join you? And I would have answered: No. So, you see, I wanted to end the dialogue as soon as possible so that I can enjoy my dinner.

The politicians in the first place and the Workers Union in the second are to blame for the problem resulting from the iron and steel plant incident. Resorting to the police solution indicates that the National Democratic Party [NDP] is only a banner, no more and no less, and that the party is based on offices not on masses, practicing its activities in the way of the Socialist Union but lacking the principles of the Socialist Union. It also indicates that the party is a political organization whose real task is not to support and back authority. The party, indeed, proved to be the spoiled child of authority.

As for the Workers Union, it seems its leaders are busy with extremely important matters, especially travelling abroad—sometimes to Libya, sometimes to Iraq, and sometimes to Geneva. These leaders, therefore, have not devoted their attention to the phenomenon of strikes, which has recurred in the recent past.

This phenomenon must be observed and analysed to know its real causes, but it seems the Workers Union was satisfied with the police solution which the government used against the previous strikes. They seemed happy with being removed from workers' issues in Egypt, because the true mission of the Workers Union is to take care of workers in Europe!

And so long as the NDP is nonexistent and the Workers Union is extremely busy, such incidents are bound to happen again. These incidents have causes that must be discussed politically and socially, not merely left to the investigative authorities.

I completely refuse to believe the story that two communists and two Muslim Brotherhood members were behind the strike, because this gives the communists and the Muslim brothers a weight they cannot claim, and means that the political scene is controlled by the communists and the Muslim brothers—which is completely untrue.

One thousand communists and 10,000 Muslim brothers could not force even 10 workers to strike if the 10 workers were happy and satisfied.

There must be reasons for the strike, and when there are reasons, anybody, even a member of the Al-Ummah party, can stir workers into staging strikes. Therefore, what is important now is to discuss the reasons that led to the strike before interrogating those who planned and organized it. We cannot tolerate the recurrence of such incidents or such police solutions.

We have to behave in light of the fact that the world keeps changing. Even the Soviet Union has seen strikes—for the first time in its history since the revolution.

The Siberian miners' strike ended peacefully after the radio and television broadcast that Gorbachev addressed to the workers. When I say that the strike has causes that should be thoroughly examined, I do not forget to say, to be fair, that some workers deserve dismissal or even harsher punishment.

Some workers receive their wages only for coming to the plant, and not for doing something else. We also have workers doing nothing, although their salaries amount to hundreds of pounds. At the same time, we have workers exerting strenous efforts but receiving not even the salary

of the lazy worker. The arrogance and harshness of the managers should be limited at least in the public sector companies. These defects result only in incompetent and inexperienced people. A higher committee consisting of people interested in the welfare of the homeland should be set up to discuss the reasons that led to the recent strikes and the condition that the police option be used only if all other means fail and all channels are blocked.

Therefore, the NDP should awaken from its sleep, which has lasted long enough and which has led to the current contradiction between the NDP government and the workers. I wonder: Is there a secretariat for the workers in the NDP?. If so, what is the duty of that secretariat? Is it to set up pavillions and prepare speeches? And what is the use of such a committee if two communists and two Muslim Brotherhood members can excite large numbers of workers against the administration?

It seems that the NDP has believed in itself and resorted to the police solution and has consequently overburdened the police force with responsibilities that should have been assumed by the political organization. It is enough for the police to confront the terrorist organizations and the cocaine, opium, and other drug traffickers and addicts.

Regarding the workers' problems, the NDP should have dealt with them effectively, because they are political problems and because differences with the workers cannot be solved by the police or even by the Gestapo itself. These problems can be settled through dialogue, understanding, and offering reasonable solutions to the real problems. But regrettably and despite the recent strikes, I did not hear about any labor conference after any of these strikes. Where is the political action inside the public sector's companies and factories? Leaving matters as they are poses a great danger. Therefore, matters should be reconsidered with the NDP secretary general. He should pay some attention to the workers just as he pays attention to strawberries and cucumbers grown in the greenhouses. As God has not given two hearts to every man, I suggest that the secretary general focus on the secretariat and leave agricultural affairs to the experts, or focus on agriculture and leave NDP affairs to other politicians. But taking all the posts in one hand and cutting short the dialogue between the NDP and the workers in the way of "Hello...no." is something that should be considered carefully before matters get worse in Egypt one day.

I can tell everybody that the current situation in Egypt should be preserved. This must be everbody's goal. But preserving it requires dealing with mistakes and errors. We should not conceal righteousness and we should tell the blind man that he is blind. I advise the workers to be cautious because the Wafd and the terrorist groups surround them and there are people who want them to go back to the pre-23 July Revolution situation. Therefore, it is in their interest to solve problems through dialogue and understanding. And I tell the NDP that the workers support you against reactionaries and terrorism. Therefore, there should be no contradictions between the party and the workers. If this occurs, search for the party, and when we say party, we mean the NDP and no other party [sentence as published].

Morocco

Hassan Receives Arab Tripartite Committee Envoy

LD1508164689 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 15 Aug 89

[Text] His Majesty King Hassan II received this afternoon at the Royal Palace in Skhirat Mr Lakhdar Ibrahimi, assistant secretary general of the Arab League and special envoy of the Arab higher tripartite committee, who is charged with the task of settling the Lebanon crisis.

After that, His Majesty King Hassan II received Mr Thierry de Beauce, secretary of state at the French Foreign Ministry, accompanied by his private adviser and by the French ambassador in Rabat, in the presence of Mr Lakhdar Ibrahimi.

The two audiences were attended by Moulay Ahmed Alaoui, minister of state; Mr Ahmed Reda Guedira, adviser to his majesty; Abdellatif Filali, minister of foreign affairs and cooperation; and Driss Basri, minister of interior and information.

Committee Report Delivered to Arab Envoys

LD1508205989 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 15 Aug 89

[Text] It has been learned from sources at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation that Foreign Minister Abdellatif Filali this afternoon held a meeting at his ministry with the ambassadors of Arab states accredited to Rabat, and handed them the report of the tripartite committee on Lebanon for delivery to their heads of state.

The same sources added that copies of the report had been handed to the ambassadors of the UN Security Council member states, as well as to representatives of the pope and the UN secretary general.

Sudan

Report on Al-Mahdi 3 Jul Letter to Al-Bashir

PM1508132889 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 10 Aug 89 pp 1-2

[Unattributed report: "AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Obtains Text of Al-Mahdi's Letter to Al-Bashir"]

[Text] Paris—AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has obtained the text of the letter which [former] Sudanese Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi addressed, on the eve of his arrest, to Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad

al-Bashir, chairman of the Command Council of the Revolution for National Salvation in Sudan, proposing a working program and framework for reconciliation.

In his handwritten letter dated 3 July 1989—that is, 3 days after the coup which toppled his government—Al-Mahdi admitted that government institutions and democratic practices in Sudan displayed certain shortcomings. But he said that "what is required is commitment to democracy and to its institutions and practices."

In his letter Al-Mahdi defended himself, saying that he had not lost his credibility, since the Constituent Assembly recorded not a single vote of no-confidence against him. Besides, channels were open between him and the other political forces.

He added: "I was always the first to go to work and the last to leave, and I cost the state nothing in salary, housing, or holidays."

He also indicated that he hoped for a fair trail and an investigation of excesses and corruption in order to do justice to the innocent and punish the guilty.

The letter included the following statements: Out of concern for the country's future, I sought to propose a peaceful way out:

1. Democracy is our people's choice. It is the future trend and commitment to it is a national duty. But democratic institutions and practices in Sudan showed shortcomings. What is required is commitment to democracy and commitment to reforming its institutions and practices.

2. There was discussion at the highest technical and national level of policies such as the development program, the reconstruction plan, and the relief program (the lifeline), and the program to support and rehabilitate the Armed Forces. It is in the common interest to build on those of these policies that are sound and then to move forward. This also applies to the peace program, which developed as a result of various efforts until it produced a framework for peace, starting with the Koka Dam stages and ending with the November agreement. Furthermore, an overview of the country's foreign policy was drawn up through recommendations from experts and politicians, which resulted in a program for a national foreign policy, in addition to national policies for refugees and evacuees. It is in the common interest that those programs and policies—which were discussed at a national level, and sometimes with international participation—be exploited in building the homeland.

3. Our country is suffering a major economic illness which we could not deal with under past conditions—that is, the fact that we consume far much more than we produce and export only one-third as much as we import. This situation requires a drastic remedy, by reducing all aspects of consumption, especially of electricity, water, and fuel. We must increase production, especially public sector production. Present conditions provide a better opportunity to deal with that difficult equilibrium.

4. Support for the Armed Forces and the security forces under these defense and security conditions is a prime duty. And you will find that we did all we could in that regard. But apart from the equipment, there are other shortcomings—in leadership, morale, and all aspects of military performance. All these were the reason for the setbacks in Liria, Kabwita [placename as published], and Torit, in addition to the performance of the "188 battalion" deterrent brigade, which must be tackled and remedied in order to raise our military forces's performance.

5. Your first statement accused me of talking too much, to the extent of losing my credibility. True, I spoke a lot, but if you examine what I said, you will find that it was a well-studied attempt to arouse a people facing difficult conditions. The aim was to give them hope and lead them into their promising future. I do not know where I lost my credibility. The [Constituent] Assembly recorded not a single vote of no-confidence against me for talking to them. Channels were open between me and the political, unionist forces in the country. There was confidence, and I encountered only spontaneous and complete respect on the political scene. Anyhow, such matters will be determined by history. I mention them, hoping to transcend personal contests and concentrate on what benefits Sudan.

You spoke about corruption and cited the Umm Dawm compensations, but I would just like you to study the Umm Dawm file where you will find the evidence of my honest handling of public funds. As a responsible man, I was always the first to go to work and the last to leave. I cost the state nothing in salary, housing, or holidays. After every visit I would return what I had not spent. Furthermore, all reform and follow-up plans were made on my own initiative, and the civil service bears witness to that.

What I hope for in that regard is a fair trial, the outcome of which will establish the truth.

6. If you are anxious to salvage the country and to avert opening new fronts, the following points can provide a line to pursue in word and deed, and then the country's critical conditions will prompt its political forces to adopt a positive attitude toward them:

a. Commitment to democracy and to reforming its institutions and practices in all fields according to an agreed defined, detailed, scheduled program.

b. Adopting the national programs valid for building the homeland.

c. Carrying out the radical economic reforms that will restore Sudan's economic tenability; maintain independence; and guide and increase production, investment, and development.

d. Carrying out the required reforms to raise military performance and rehabilitate the Armed Forces.

e. Conducting a fair investigation of excesses and corruption in order to do justice to the innocent and punish the guilty.

7. When the May movement emerged, we boycotted it by means of such an attitude, which is why it decided to choose the road of confrontation, the consequences of which are well known. But now conditions are different: Neither the supply, economic, political, or military situation grants any room for maneuver. Nor does the the internal or international climate provide the conditions exploited by the May movement. So if you decide to choose a path other than confrontation and polarization, you will find it possible by investigating the stances of the political and factional forces. And in this regard the points I am proposing for addition or amendment constitute a prelude to a positive relationship for the homeland's sake.

Bahrain

Foreign Minister Returns From U.S. Visit

JN1408163089 Manama WAKH in English 1535 GMT 14 Aug 89

[Text] Manama, Aug 14 (GNA)—Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Ibn-Mubark Al Khalifah returned home today from the United States where he delivered a message from H.H. [His Highness] the Amir of Bahrain Shaykh 'Isa Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah to U.S. President George Bush on bilateral relations and current developments in the Middle East. He also held talks with top U.S. officials on main topics in the international arena and ways of further boosting economic cooperation between the State of Bahrain and the United States.

On his way for home, the Bahraini foreign minister stopped over in Europe for a one-week long private visit.

'Extreme Concern' Expressed Over Lebanese Crisis

JN1508120189 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1045 GMT 15 Aug 89

[Excerpt] Manama, 15 Aug (WAKH)—The State of Bahrain has expressed its extreme concern over the tragic developments in Lebanon and the painful situation being experienced by the innocent sons of the Lebanese people. This statement was made during the ordinary session the Bahraini Council of Ministers held today under His Highness Shaykh Hamad Ibn-'Isa Al Khalifah, heir apparent and acting prime minister.

Tariq 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Mu'ayyad, information minister and acting minister of state for cabinet affairs, said that the heir apparent and acting prime minister has stressed that Bahrain calls for sparing innocent blood, safeguarding national unity, and for supporting the Arab tripartite committee's efforts to achieve an appropriate solution to end the chronic Lebanese crisis. [passage omitted]

Qatar

Foreign Minister Returns From Saudi Arabia 14 Aug

JN1408163489 Manama WAKH in English 1510 GMT 14 Aug 89

[Text] Doha, Aug 14 (GNA)—Qatari Foreign Minister 'Abdallah Ibn-Khalifah al-'Attiya returned early this morning from Jeddah following a short visit to Saudi Arabia. While there, the Qatari minister delivered a letter to the custodian of the two holy mosques King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia from H.H. [His Highness] the Amir of Qatar Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Hamad Al Thani.

Saudi Arabia

Sudan's Al-Bashir Statements in Jeddah Noted

Says Reconciliation 'Imminent'

PM0208144089 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 30 Jul 89 pp 1-2

[Kamal Hamid report: "Saudi-Sudanese Summit in Jeddah; Al-Bashir Makes Important Statements To AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT"]

[Excerpts] Jeddah, Khartoum, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Bureau—Summit talks started in Jeddah yesterday evening between the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, and Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] for National Salvation in Sudan, who arrived in Jeddah at the head of a high-level delegation on a 2-day official visit to Saudi Arabia.

In an exclusive statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Jeddah, Lt Gen al-Bashir said: I knew that I would be warmly received in Saudi Arabia, but what I have encountered has exceeded my imagination: I found my brother, the custodian of the two holy mosques, talking about Sudan's problems and anxieties both knowledgeably and with deep love for our people. [passage omitted]

Al-Bashir emphasized that "the national salvation revolution is determined to resolve all Sudan's problem—and first and foremost being the problem of the South—according to a clear vision and well-defined program. This is why our position has been fixed right from the beginning until the Garang movement agreed recently to sit down with us in direct negotiations without any preconditions, contrary to what happened with the previous party governments. Because of their weakness and attempts to achieve peace for partisan purposes and gains, these governments were proud of the fact that they were working to achieve peace, even though they always had to accept preconditions before sitting down at the negotiating table."

Al-Bashir added: "The men of the revolution for salvation had to seize power when they felt that their country was being fragmented and the civil war had begun to destroy its regions in the South, the West, and the Nubian mountains. The parties played a clear role in that fragmentation. The best proof of this is the civil war in Darfur, which was kindled by the two major ruling parties, since the Ummah Party supported the Arab tribes and supplied them with arms from outside, whereas the Democratic Union Party supported the Fur tribes and supplied them with arms via Chad—resulting in chaos and a contempt for the nation's future. This is why when party rule ended the Darfur war stopped completely."

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that a major reconciliation in Sudan, similar to that achieved by former President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri with Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi in summer 1977, is now imminent. Informed political sources said that the doors are still open to the continuation of national dialogue among the political forces. [passage omitted]

Talks to Reporters

PM0208151689 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 31 Jul 89 pp 1-2

[Kamal Hamid and Ahmad Makhtum reports: "Al-Bashir: Al-Mahdi's and Al-Mirghani's Parties Wanted To Destroy Sudan's Unity"]

[Excerpts] Jeddah—Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Command Council of the Sudanese Revolution for National Salavation, has stated that the two major parties which ruled Sudan—namely, the al-Ummah Party under Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's leadership and the National Unionist Party under Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani's leadership—committed the worst treason in Sudan's history when they fomented sedition in Darfur. He said that the Armed Forces had to seize power because the country was suffering, the situation was deteriorating dangerously, fragmentation was occurring because of civil wars, and security was in jeopardy in the South, the West, and the al-Nubah region.

Speaking at a meeting with representatives of the Expatriates Preparatory Committee in the western region held in al-Hamra palace in Jeddah, Lt Gen al-Bashir said the revolution has acted positively to solve the problem of the South.

The chairman of the Command Council of the Revolution for National Salvation added that "the al-Ummah Party sponsored and armed the Arab tribes and the Unionist Party sponsored and armed Fur tribes, in a sinister partisan conflict that ignored the country's general interests. The proof is that after the National Salvation Revolution and the two parties' loss of power, the security situation in Darfur improved and peace prevailed in less than a week." [passage omitted]

At a press conference held in al-Hamra Palace in Jeddah yesterday afternoon at the conclusion of his visit to Saudi Arabia, where he was received by the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd, Lt Gen al-Bashir said that published information about the possibility of reconciliation with Sudanese party figures had been misunderstood. The truth, he said, is that the Salvation Revolution will extend its hand to all Sudanese people not charged in corruption cases, and reconciliation will be on a personal, not partisan, basis if they wish to participate in rebuilding Sudan.

He also emphasized that he may not hand power back to civilians after 4 years, as has been written, if the Revolution Command Council has not completed its salvation program by then, and even after its completion the Armed Forces will have a role to play in securing the country's future in accordance with a specific formula to be specified in the Sudanese Constitution.

In reply to a question from AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT on the fate of the Egyptian-Sudanese joint defense pact abrogated by the former regime, he said: The former regime did not abrogate the pact but, regrettably, under pressure from John Garang's movement, it sought to abrogate the pact introduced by Numayri's regime in the interest of both peoples.

He stressed that the current government in Khartoum is the only party entitled to sign or change agreements or protocols. We, he said, do not agree to any foreign party's imposing on us the abrogation of any agreement that serves public interests.

In reply to another question from AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT regarding peace steps with Garang's movement, Lt Gen al-Bashir said: We have confirmed our goodwill in the interest of peace through the cease-fire, the general amnesty, and the reopening of roads for relief purposes. These steps have resulted in a major positive move, with the Garang movement agreeing to go to the negotiating table without any prior conditions. A Sudanese delegation has been formed for that purpose. It will leave for Addis Ababa and we hope to be able to find a final and thorough solution to this problem.

Answering a question on foreign aid to the Garang movement, Lt Gen al-Bashir pointed out that the movement received aid from the East because of its communist Marxist inclinations, from the West, from the church, and also from world Zionism. The movement's recent military success, he said, was achieved with direct support from Israel.

On the Eritrean problem, he said that he and Ethiopian leader Haile-Mariam Mengistu agreed on specific steps which are certainly in the interests of the region's nations—especially Sudan, Ethiopia, and Eritrea—but that the time was not yet ripe for these steps to be announced. [passage omitted]

Al-Bashir said that rule of Islamic shari'a law was sacred to every Muslim, but regrettably the shari'a issue had been exploited for cheap profiteering and tax gains, which is why he still believed that there should be a public referendum in Sudan on this important and vital matter. [passage omitted]

State To Provide 'Any Possible Help' to 'Awn

JN1508182389 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 15 Aug 89

[Text] In Baghdad, Iraqi Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim has reasserted Iraq's support for Brigadier General 'Awn in his war against the Syrian military presence in Lebanon. He expressed Baghdad's readiness to provide any possible help to the government of Brig Gen 'Awn. Jasim also stressed that the Lebanese can solve their problems by themselves if Syria, Israel, and Iran withdraw their forces from Lebanon.

Press Urges United Arab Stand Against Syria

JN1508113889 Baghdad INA in English 0945 GMT 15 Aug 89

[Text] Baghdad, Aug. 15, INA—Iraqi press today called for a unified and decisive Arab stand against the deviative Syrian regime for aborting its designs which threatens the entire Arab entity.

AL-THAWRAH daily of Baghdad called here today for convening an emergency and urgent Arab summit so that all Arab countries bear their historic and national responsibilities towards Lebanon following escalation of the Syrian regime's conspiracy on the Arab nation and its supreme interests. The daily said that the large-scale military operation carried out by Syrian troops to invade Suq al-Gharb preliminary to invading eastern Beirut was a confrontation to this regime's determination to implement its conspiratorial scheme for destroying and partitioning Lebanon in collusion with the Zionist entity and the Iranian regime.

AL-THAWRAH further said that the Syrian military operation constituted a clear-cut challenge and violation to the resolutions of the Casablanca Arab summit that called for commitment to the brotherly dialogue for dealing with the Lebanese crisis and saving the Lebanese people from its horrible plight. In this operation, the daily pointed out, the Syrian regime expressed rejection to the Arab settlement and determination to sabotage it and represented a new attempt to avenge the Lebanese national will which is confronting gallantly its conspiratorial designs. The daily further said that the Syrian regime implemented its operation through a clear Zionist cover represented in movement of Syrian and Israeli naval pieces in the area.

AL-JUMHURIYAH daily, paying tribute to the steadfastness of Lebanon under the leadership of the government of Major General Michel 'Awn against the Syrian invasion, appealed to the Arab governments to shoulder their historic responsibility vis-a-vis Lebanon and to adopt an effective stand dictated by pan-Arab obligation. The daily said Arab governments are required to condemn the Syrian offensive on Suq al-Gharb and warn Syrian rulers against the consequences of any fresh attack on other Lebanese areas.

AL-JUMHURIYAH daily said that the Syrian regime endeavours to destroy Lebanon's independence and partition it with the Zionist entity and the Iranian regime. The daily went on saying that the government of Premier Michel 'Awn represents the Lebanese legitimacy and the free and independent Lebanese will and that despite its weak potentials and the difficult condition through which it is passing, it has bravely defended Lebanon's independence, unity and national dignity. The daily said that we have to congratulate the government of Premier 'Awn in succeeding to crush the criminal Syrian attack. This success highlighted a triumph to the values of Arabism and defeat to the wicked conspiracy implemented by Hafiz al-Asad in cooperation with enemies of Arab nation in their forefront the Iranian regime and the Zionist entity.

AL-QADISIYAH daily urged for adopting a unified Arab stand through an emergency Arab summit to discuss the Casablanca summit resolutions concerning Lebanon and for stopping blood letting there. The daily editorially said that there should be a confirmation to the Lebanese legitimacy and rejection of attempts of occupation and rejection to all forms and means of foreign presence in Lebanon. It added that Syrian operations in Suq al-Gharb calls upon all Arabs to exercise their role for stopping the sapping of blood which extended to cover all Lebanon.

AL-QADISIYAH further stressed that the Arabs should reach a final settlement to the disaster in Lebanon which jeopardizes the existence of Lebanon which is part of the Arab homeland. It said that steadfastness of the Lebanese people represented a strong slap to the occupiers who prepared for this operation and called it as 'liberation operations'. It further pointed out that while the Syrian regime's artillery were brutally bombarding Beirut, the Zionists were satisfactorily observing the Syrian acts of murdering the Lebanese will.

AL-'IRAQ daily said the Syrian regime while implementing its liquidationist criminal design against the Lebanese independent state, it adds further crime registered in its coward and rotten record against the Arab nation. It said that the Syrian regime had facilitated the operation of Zionist invasion of Lebanon and gave access to the mercenaries of the Iranian regime into Lebanon and was also the party that blockaded and ousted the Palestine revolution from Lebanon. The daily charged the Syrian regime with intensifying sectarian disputes in Lebanon through agreement with a foreign country to impose a president on Lebanon in contradiction with Lebanon's legitimacy and the supreme interests of the Arab nation. It concluded by saying that an urgent Arab summit was necessary to discuss the grave conditions in Lebanon.

INA Editor Analyzes 'Syrian Assaults' in Lebanon

JN1508144889 Baghdad INA in English 1350 GMT 15 Aug 89

[By INA Arab affairs editor]

[Text] Baghdad, Aug 15, INA—It seems from the last two days' events that the Syrian regime will not suspend launching further extensive military assaults to the aim of sweeping east Beirut.

The battle of Suq al-Gharb, which ended with a huge political and military failure of the Syrian rulers, has represented a grave escalation of the Syrian insistence to work to prevent the Lebanese legitimacy, represented by President Major-General Michel 'Awn, from performing the honourable national role in rescuing Lebanon from all vicious powers, being in agreement to disperse and destroy the country and disrupt security and stability there.

According to the size of the Syrian military attack on Suq al-Gharb, it looks obvious that the Syrian regime was not planning for a disciplinary strike, as it claimed after the attack was driven back, but it was attempting to start in actual invasion of East Beirut, coordinating its thrust with the Zionist and pro-Iranian forces, and amid silence which predicts that there is an extraordinary great conspiracy against Lebanon.

It goes without saying that victory of President 'Awn's command in Suq al-Gharb must be a factor of attracting all Lebanese around his leadership, stemming from the fact that the Syrian invasion does not aim at the territory of the Lebanese, but also their national dignity and honour, for the legitimate combating of the Syrian invasion has become equivalent to Lebanon's independence, freedom safety of its lands, unity of sects, and domination of security and stability.

The Syrian regime, which has proved to have never been concerned about sapping Lebanese, Palestinian, or Syrian blood, will necessarily re-attempt with heavier military forces to stop President 'Awn's command to win the Lebanese in the defensive battle of Lebanon's sovereignty, independence [words indistinct] the affairs at which the Arabs should not be merely on-lookers of bloodbaths being effected by Syrian weapons in an Arab capital being razed.

It is certain that the Arabs will need not start from zero in this field, as there are the Casablanca summit's applicable resolutions as well as Iraq's call for an emergency summit which will take a responsible, urgent and serious stand against the Syrian invasion of Lebanon and its capital Beirut, and to reinforce steadfastness of Lebanon, under the leadership of Major-General Michel 'Awn and his persevering and legitimate bid to maintain the country's security, stability and independence.

President Saddam Husayn has stressed in a telephone call with president 'Awn yesterday, Iraq's solidarity with the people of Lebanon and confidence that the colonialist, Zionist and anti-nationalism conspiracy is not aiming at Lebanon only, but the Arab present and future as well, and that foiling that conspiracy, carried out by Hafiz al-Asad against Lebanon, is necessarily aiming at the plots of partitioning the Arab world, creating intrigues, and crushing the bases of its national security.

Iraq reassures, through its leader President Saddam Husayn, its strong support of the Lebanese people, under President 'Awn's command.

In conclusion, we inquire if the Arabs will not mvoe now to back up Lebanon in its endeavouring for independence and sovereignty, then when will they?

Journalist's Tour of Nuclear Reactor, Part 2

JN0808122589 Baghdad ALIF BA' in Arabic 2 Aug 89 pp 4-6

[Second and last part of a report by Hasan al-'Ani]

[Text] From now on we have to move to new terms as the situation requires it. I am now with Dr Ghassan Hisham al-Khatib, chief of the isotopes production department, in order to review a part of the general and specific history of isotopes.

The use of isotopes in the medical arena dates back to 1934 when the first artificial radioactive substance was produced by hitting settled atoms with accelerated particles at high speed. In 1937 Phosphorous 32 was used to treat leukemia. One year later Iodine 131 was produced to diagnose and treat diseases of the thyroid gland. Discoveries continued until it was possible for isotopes to diagnose and treat most of the known diseases.

On the national level, the department chief says the isotopes department reflects a glowing picture of the activities of the Iraqi Atomic Energy Agency and the Tammuz nuclear reactor. It is one of the oldest and most important departments because its tasks directly affect the lives of citizens and the society. Isotopes are used in many vital arenas, headed by medical and industrial activities. From this premise, the agency established a hospital and special institute for purposes of diagnosis and medication.

Production operations began in 1969. Very briefly, the department's job focuses on sending some non-radioactive materials to the reactor in order to mark them.

[Al-'Ani] Are they illiterate [ummiyah] substances?

We exchange a dry smile.

[Al-Khatib] This is a process aimed at turning them into marked [mu'allmah] substances. These include diagnostic and medical materials to which a certain amount

of radiation is added. They are called pharmaceutial substances. The marking process takes place near the three vertical channels. For example, the reactor receives dycromite [name as published] or dioxide substances from which iodine 131 is produced. It is a radioactive element widely used for medial treatment and diagnosis.

Al-Khatib continues his remarks about the history of the department. He says that since the beginning of 1970, the department began to produce some materials used in medical and industrial fields through marking these materials and hitting them with neutrons inside the reactor's channels. Such materials are Technetium-99m, Iodine 131, Phosphorus 32, Sodium 24, and others. This is in addition to marking other materials like hyperon and thyroxine.

We used to produce a number of medicinal drugs which were marked by the use of Technetium-99m for the purpose of medical diagnosis and ...

[Al-'Ani] Excuse me sir for interrupting you. Neither I nor the ordinary reader is interested in knowing anything about purely technical processes. We only want to know the kind of diseases which can be diagnosed by the use of isotopes. Would a cup of atomic radiactive material restore our health?!

[Al-Khatib] You are of course joking when you talk about a cup of radioactive material. Istopes in the field of medical and industrial services are indeed a different thing. A cup of radiation is sufficient to kill anyone, God forbid. You are joking, of course. So let us instead concentrate on marked drugs and their diagnostic benefits. By marked drugs we mean compounds such as colloidal tin or colloidal sulphur for diagnosing liver diseases. Gallbladder diseases are also diagnosed by the use of the (hayda) [as published] and its derivatives as well as (parapiotal ayda) [as published]. The section also produces special drugs for kidney diseases such as (merkeptosacsanc acid) [as published]. It also produces other drugs for diagnosing bone diseases such as the MBD [expansion unknown]. There are special drugs for vascular diseases, heart diseases, and blood tests.

I must point out two things here. First, the medicinal drugs mentioned above are given either through intravenous injection or as fluids. (He objects to my saying a cup of radiactive material, yet he confirms that those radioactive materials are taken as a drink.)

Well, he is a nuclear scientist and I am only a journalist who does not have the authority to advise people to take a cup of radiactive material before a meal! Second, the seventies witnessed several uses of isotopes in the industrial field such as checking oil pipelines to make sure that there are no leakages and also checking weldings through the gama radiography method. There are other industrial usages in cement and glass factories to make sure that pipeline systems are functioning properly.

The head of the section says that in the late seventies and early eighties, the section developed a new method of producing instruments for testing the level of certain hormones in the human body. As we know, a change in the level of hormones in the body could denote the existence of a disease. The test is conducted by taking a piece of the thyroid and mixing it with marked thyroxine-4. This is one method to see whether or not the level of hormone excretion is normal.

[Al-'Ani] If I am not mistaken, iodine is the most widely used with respect to the thyroid gland.

[Al-Khatib] Iodine-131 is used at the same time for the diagnosis and treatment of thyroid gland ailments.

[Al-'Ani] Forgive me for interrupting you. Please continue.

[Al-Khatib] There is other research work with respect to pregnancy tests at the early stages.

I asked the section head about the level of the section's production standard in terms of quality and quantity. He pointed out that the materials produced were exhibited at many local, Arab, regional, and international seminars and conferences where they won admiration and appreciation. He also said that the Iraqi Health Ministry issues the section a certificate for each product it produces, not to mention the important step of marketing the Iraqi product to some fraternal countries where they are favorably welcomed. He added that it is a great pleasure to see that all Iraqi products, research, and results are comparable to their counterparts in foreign countries.

[Al-'Ani] The dialogue has so far focused on the medical and not on the industrial field. What have you achieved in this field?

[Al-Khatib] The section's other activities deal with the industrial applications of electrodes. Although this activity is not a new one, it has experienced many operations to develop and renovate it. The installation of the new production line in 1985 represents a qualitative step in the section's activities. This production line has been allocated to the production of radioactive electrodes. All aspects of this production line were completed in 1988. Thus, we no longer import electrodes and, on the other hand, we have produced advanced types of electrodes at a relatively lower cost than that of the classical electrode.

[Al-'Ani] It seems that economic and commercial terminology has found its way into our dialogue. From this premise, I would like to ask whether the question of the production of medical instruments and marketing issues in any way affects the other scientific research?

[Al-Khatib] Scientific research incessantly accompanies the production operation. We focus our attention on two types of research. The first is the development of medical instruments, and the second is to search for new discoveries in the future that will upgrade the operation from its bases.

May God bless the reactor a thousand times. It is calm and peaceable. It has a glass surface and fresh, pure water. However, the true horror is here in the isotope section and its branches. We enter a gate that can only be opened by a Roman gladiator to arrive at another gate that is stronger, more powerful, and that refuses to open even with the power of one thousand horses. Then, I discover the game; the second gate does not open unless the first one is closed. We enter a room in which pressure is rarefied, and between reality and dream I hear someone saying that the area is divided into five pressure areas. This day does not want to pass peacefully!

We climb an iron staircase that is coated with plastic. We put on a red vest and long rubber shoes, and stand under an air current that cleans the body of stains and environmental pollution. We move from one room to another and see thousands of pieces of equipment and projectors watching you as if they were the eyes of a wife watching her husband coming home after midnight. There is a hot corridor with spotlights, radioactive waste, the physicists' measurement laboratory, the medical physics unit, the hot and radioactive cells, the four doctors of the hot cells, and small, neat rooms made of glass stronger than steel. They are good for horror movies, but not for housing. No human being or any other living creature can enter them. They have no doors or ventilation. However, their contents are exposed through the solid glass wall. It is enough to know that they call them the shield in one of the descriptions. However, their contents are rays, radiation, and radioactivity that are dealt with by means of mechanical arms. The mechanical arm inside the room resembles human fingers that move in all directions. However, they are steel fingers that are moved from outside the room. There are pieces of equipment which I do not know the use of because there are hundreds of them. There are also tapes, computers, electrodes, small glass boxes, control rooms, myriads of buttons, rarefied pressure, and a day that does not want to pass peacefully. There are also engineering tests conducted by radiation, an apparatus that detects what is inside your watch, battery, lighter, or any closed body. What if our wives possessed similar apparatus to detect what we hide in our hearts? By means of protective lead shields, the materials are transferred from the reactor to the radiant or hot cells.

May God bless the reactor a thousand times. What should I tell you about the isotope section? My blood pressure shot up as I stood astounded by the radiation chambers and the hot cells. I remember the six departments very well and, according to what I managed to record, they are: the isotope production section consisting of a group of laboratories to produce Iodine 131 and various isotopes and mark them; the pharmaceutical instruments section responsible for producing the pharmaceutical instruments marked by Technetium-99m; the section for producing instruments for analysing radioactive immunity (RIA) to set the hormone level of the thyroid and cortison; the quality control section responsible for testing and examining the safety of the product; the marketing section responsible for importation from abroad, marketing inside, and exporting the products to some Arab countries. This section is the only section which imports radioactive materials. And lastly, there is the industrial applications section specializing in using isotopes for industrial purposes and advising the various departments and institutions of the government.

And then, did I tell you that the most distinguished characteristic of this medical section lies in helping the doctor diagnose a sickness extremely accurately, simply, and perfectly? This is because the radioactive materials, which do not cause any harm or have any side effects, after going into the diseased person's body, are capable of conveying crystal clear information and messages. They do this by radiating through the healthy parts whereas the part suffering from a tumor, rottenness, or disease remains dark. In this way, the doctor can easily perform his duties to cure the sick person after getting the full diagnosis of the patients condition and its location in the body.

There are more accurate details which I do not wish to discuss here before I go on a field trip to the nuclear medicine hospital and college. There are bed-side equipment and cures which have nothing to do with what we are used to in other medical institutions. I pray to God that none of you will have to resort to them because man's health and his well-being are the crown of happiness. I hope that my journalistic trip will not be surrounded by surgical masks and gloves. I saw and suffered from those enough in the hot cells, the nuclear bath, radiation chambers, and rarefied pressure.

There is one thing which I have not mentioned so far, perhaps because it was the most important and precious feeling for me personally. This is that after my tour of the 14 Tammuz nuclear reactor and the isotope prodution section I felt proud and honored. I experienced deepened feelings of pride in my Iraqi identity, in belonging to this great homeland, and in the minds of its thinkers, ability of its scientists, and will of its men.

Former Chief Rabbi: Land Compromise Permissible
TA1408094789 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 14 Aug 89 pp 1, 8

[Report by Hayim Shapiro]

[Excerpts] Former Sephardi Chief Rabbi 'Ovadya Yosef told a crush of cheering supporters last night that although it was legitimate, according to the Halacha, to give up a part of the land of Israel in return for perfect peace, such a solution was not feasible today.

Yosef was speaking at the 31st Annual Conference on the Oral Law at Mossad Harav Kook, a gathering that in past years attracted a sprinkling of scholars. This year, because Dr. Yitzhaq Refa'el, director of Mossad Harav Kook, chose to invite Yosef rather than the incumbent chief rabbis, it became a major media event and a show of political strength by Yosef, the spiritual mentor of the Shas Party.

Yosef was preceded by Defence Minister Yitzhaq Rabin (Labor), who told the gathering that he believed the Jews had a right to the land of Israel, but argued that the presence of a substantial Arab population was undermining the Jewishness of the State of Israel. When a heckler called for expelling the Arabs, Rabin retorted: "I've expelled more Arabs than you."

On the issue of terror, Rabin said that today he was far more concerned about terror attacks within Israel proper than in the territories. Most of the Jews who had been killed this year were killed inside Israel. [passage omitted]

Yosef recounted that before determining his opinion, he had consulted with four military experts with differing views, MK [Knesset Member] Refa'el Eytan (Tzomet), Minister-Without-Portfolio 'Ezer Weizman (Labor), MK Rehav'am Ze'evi (Moledet) and Rabin himself. He had taken this step, he said, in response to criticism voiced when he made a similar speech at the same forum 10 years ago. [passage omitted]

The two chief rabbis recently issued their Halachic opinion that it is forbidden for Israel to surrender territory.

Yosef yesterday seemed anxious to ease the controversy by stressing that his words were purely theoretical under the present circumstances, when, even if Israel wished to speak of peace, there was no partner for such talks.

His opinion would take on a new significance, he said, if at some time in the future an Israeli Government was in a position to negotiate a true peace. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, in Bene Beraq, Rabbi Eli'ezer Schach, the venerable head of the Ponevezh Yeshiva who is also revered by the Shas and Degel Hatora Parties, last night expressed a far more dovish line when he told his students that territories, as a value in themselves, meant nothing. This was especially true, he said, when the government which held these territories did not live by the Torah and desecrated the Sabbath. [passage omitted]

No Change in Fatah Position Seen in Resolutions
TA1308080289 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 13 Aug 89 p 4

[Editorial: "A Dangerous Resolution Game"]

[Text] In an unusually strongly-worded statement, the [U.S.] State Department on Thursday took to task the resolutions adopted last week in Tunis by the Fatah congress—chairman Yasir 'Arafat's main PLO constituency.

Not mincing her words this time, spokeswoman Margaret Tutweiler said plainly that Fatah's "derogatory rhetoric on Israel, its tone of confrontation and violence, and its preference for unrealistic principles and solutions, instead of practical ideas for peace, are unhelpful."

These resolutions raise questions regarding the PLO's "commitment to accommodation, understanding and peace," she stressed, adding that the tough U.S. reaction was voiced even though Washington had not yet received a complete version of all the adopted Fatah resolutions. Other U.S. officials explained at the same time that the condemnation of these resolutions was designed to underscore Washington's deep disappointment.

This was probably the sharpest American criticism directed at the PLO since former Secretary of State George Shultz announced last December that the U.S. had finally agreed to start a formal dialogue with the PLO through its ambassador to Tunisia, Robert Pelletreau. That move, which deeply disappointed and angered Jerusalem, was made possible after chairman 'Arafat finally agreed to utter a number of sentences in Geneva—in a second try—which had practically been dictated to him by Washington. His brief statement, on which he refused to elaborate, was construed by the U.S. as an undertaking by the PLO regarding the recognition of Israel, acceptance of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, and denunciation of terrorism.

The official U.S.-PLO dialogue in Tunis will continue, nevertheless, the State Department said on Thursday, if only to determine whether the PLO remains committed to its undertakings of last December and whether it is prepared to take practical steps toward peace.

In Washington's view, practical steps toward peace in their present context mean actually acceptance, in principle, of Israel's peace initiative with its main, operative part that calls for holding Palestinian elections in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. But a mere superficial study of the Fatah congress resolutions will reveal that Prime Minister Shamir's plan for such elections was clearly rejected. Instead, Fatah approved a resolution

calling for elections to take place in "a democratic atmosphere, under international supervision, after the withdrawal of Israeli forces."

It must have been absolutely clear to all the Fatah congress delegates and their chairman that the latter clause in particular, calling for an Israeli withdrawal from the territories before elections are held and before an interim period of hopefully peaceful coexistence has even been tried out, is totally unacceptable to a broad consensus of Israel's main political spectrum. The deep doubts and suspicions sensed by the majority of Israelis regarding the PLO's true intentions were, in fact, increased by Fatah's call to "continue to intensify and escalate armed action and all other forms of struggle, to put an end to the Zionist Israeli occupation of our Palestinian land."

It is still a moot point whether Fatah's call for establishing an independent Palestinian state was meant in the context of a two-state solution to the Israel-Arab conflict, alongside Israel, or whether putting "an end to the Zionist Israeli occupation of our Palestinian land" is not aimed at Israel's own destruction.

Yet, the consensus of many analysts of Palestinian talk and double-talk seems to be that Yasir 'Arafat's leadership position and his mandate for seeking a political solution through continued dialogue with the U.S. has been strengthened by the Tunis congress. As a further sign of seeming moderation of the PLO the co-option of Palestinian delegates from the territories to the Fatah leadership committee is being cited.

In order to make this notion credible and to convince at least the open-minded part of Israel's public that the PLO has indeed changed its main aim and is now prepared to seek a solution of peaceful coexistence with Israel it must cease its dangerous resolution game. This is not a case of imposing "constraints" on a more pragmatic and moderate formal stance since the core of the PLO-Fatah resolutions is still of the old rejectionist school.

Lebanon Security Zone Crossing Points Reopened

TA1508093589 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 15 Aug 89 p 1

[Report by David Rudge]

[Excerpt] Metulla—Crossing points along the northern frontier of the security zone in south Lebanon were reopened yesterday and a few dozen refugees fleeing the artillery bombardments in Beirut were allowed to enter.

The border checkpoints have been closed since last Friday in the wake of last week's Hizballah suicide car-bomb attack in which five Israelis and a South Lebanese Army [SLA] soldier were wounded. One of the IDF [Israel Defence Forces] soldiers is still in critical condition in Haifa's Rambam Hospital.

IDF sources noted that some of the crossing points were still closed and would be reopened in stages, depending on the circumstances.

Security at the border crossings was reported to be "extra tight." Those refugees allowed to cross had to undergo strict identification and baggage checks.

The IDF sources said that humanitarian considerations had figured largely in the decision to reopen the crossing points. [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 15 August in a report on page 2 by Menahem Horowitz states that senior IDF and SLA commanders "yesterday toured the front positions in the Jazzin area. In a meeting at the Christian troop headquarters in Jazzin, the IDF commanders reiterated their promise to help the Christian population in the area in the event it is attacked." The report adds that "Lahd's army continues to extend military and civilian assistance to the Christian troops in the area."]

Review of Hizballah, Major Personalities

TA1108141389 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 11 Aug 89 p B3

[Report by Shefi Gabay]

[Text] Commando Allah is the name by which the nearly 6,000 recruits-cum-volunteers of Hizballah in the Shiite centers of Beirut's southern suburbs, al-Biqa', and southern Lebanon prefer to be known. These recruits are selected from among the most fanatical and uneducated strata of the Lebanese Shiite population—and there are a lot of these. They obey their leaders and are prepared to carry out any order, even if it entails dying for Allah and his prophet.

The movement is influenced by the Iranian Islamic ideology. It was established after the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1982. This is an organizational setup led by clergymen who envision Lebanon as an Islamic republic. Hizballah (the Party of God) is the umbrella organization comprising clans of Shiite groupings (the Maghniyah and Hamadah clans achieved notoriety for their kamikaze terrorist attacks, aircraft hijackings, and attempts to strike Western targets in Europe). The recruits undergo military and ideological coaching by the Iran's Revolutionary Guards.

To date, Hizballah has failed to set up a recognized partisan framework with the institutions and hierarchy of a party. This is a movement that has a lot of local bases. These are led by functional and regional overseers who are subordinate to the umbrella organization, which is the central council and is made up of the most senior Shiite religious figures. The council in turn receives its directives from the Iranian ambassador to Damascus, who is instructed by the Council for the Export of the Revolution in Tehran.

The head of the Shiites' supreme religious council of clergymen in Lebanon is Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, the council's spiritual leader who resides in the Bi'r al-'Abd neighborhood of south Beirut and who achieved the highest Iranian title of "ayatollah." The council members are all shaykhs who successfully passed the Shiite religious examinations in the Islamic College of the holy city of Qom, Iran.

Outstanding among the council members controlling the entire Hizballah Movement are: 'Abbas Musawi, the shaykh of the Shiite stronghold of the southern suburb [of Beirut]; Husayn Musawi, the shaykh of al-Biqa', who resides in Ba'labakk; Subhi al-Tufayli, the commander of the movement's military branch, known as "the Islamic Resistance;" Ibrahim Amin, Hizballah's spokesman; and 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd from Jibshit, Lebanon, the shaykh of southern Lebanon currently held in detention in Israel.

Thanks to assistance from Iran and Syria, the Hizballah Movement has managed to set up a broad military infrastructure in a relatively short period of time. Militia members are forbidden to interfere in the ongoing civil war in Lebanon. The militia consists of 3,000 fighters in al-Biqa', 2,500 in Beirut, and approximately 500 men in the south. This infrastructure is bolstered by approximately 2,600 members of the Iranian Revolutionary Guards in Lebanon, who established boot camps and recruitment centers in Lebanon's Hoseyniyehs (Shiite religious centers).

Iran provides all the funds the Hizballah personnel require. So far, the movement has been unable to expand its ranks, because the majority of the Shiite population in Lebanon prefers to belong to Amal, the moderate Shiite movement. Amal, which objects to the Iranian invasion of Lebanon via the Shiites, acts to reduce the Hizballah influence, resorting even to bloodshed.

Although Hizballah cooperates with all the Palestinian factions, its main partners are the pro-Syrian terrorist factions, such as Ahmad Jibril's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command; the dissident faction of the Fatah headed by Abu-Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha]; and Abu-Nidal's [Sabri al-Banna] organization. The movement also cooperates with 'Arafat's Fatah.

In the framework of an agreement with Iran, Hizballah has so far sought the approval of the Syrian intelligence prior to carrying out its operations. All the areas controlled by Hizballah are in Syria-controlled territory. Western intelligence sources claim that a considerable number of Hizballah fighters have moved to the ranks of the Syrian Intelligence.

The ideology of the Hizballah was first published in February 1985. The platform determines that the Lebanon crisis can be solved uniquely through the establishment of an Islamic republic. It presents the movement's goals as a continuing war against imperialism, particularly that of the United States. The platform further avers that the Jewish state must be eliminated, after Jerusalem is liberated by Islam.

Hizballah has embraced terrorism as a method toward implementing its ideological platform. It invented cover names for many fictitious factions in order to perform terrorist attacks and to kidnap hostages. All these factions, however, take their orders from the supreme council of clergymen.

—The Islamic Jihad: Since 1984, it has taken credit for the abduction of six Americans and five Frenchmen. One theory claims that this faction, which is related to the more moderate elements in Iran, ceased taking hostages in 1985.

—The Revolutionary Justice is holding Joseph Cicippio and several other foreign hostages. It has been said that it is related to the Tehran extremists.

—The Organization of the Oppressed of the Earth assumed responsibility for the assassination of Colonel Higgins and kidnapped two West German nationals in an attempt to secure the release of Muhammad 'Ali Hammadi, who is jailed in Germany for his part in the hijacking of the TWA airplane.

—The Liberation of Palestine Jihad: This faction includes Palestinians and Shiites. In 1987, it kidnapped four professors of the Beirut American College.

—The Arab Revolutionary Cells: Peter Kilbourne, one of the hostages held by this faction, was executed in 1986, in retaliation for the shelling of Libyan targets by the United States.

The Additional organizations are: The Soldiers of Allah, the Sword of Islam, and others.

'Only' 3,000 Soviet Immigrants Expected in 1989

TA1608081389 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 16 Aug 89 p 5

[Report from Moscow by Amnon Kapeliuk]

[Text] A record number of visas to Israel—11,000—was issued in July alone by the Israeli consular team operating in Moscow under the auspices of the Netherlands Embassy.

Approximately 2,500 of them were tourist visas, while the rest were immigrant visas. Only about 10 percent of the immigrants left for Israel though. Some of the applicants for these visas are Christian.

The number of immigrant visas to Israel issued in Moscow rises each month, but is not matched by the number of actual immigrants to Israel, which has registered only a slight increase. According to estimates, the figure for 1989 will stand at only about 3,000 new immigrants.

Modified Boeing 707 Tankers Said World's Best

TA1408113989 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 14 Aug 89 p 26

[Report by Arye Egozi]

[Summary] According to the commander of the Israel Air Force's cargo aircraft squadron, Israel's Boeing 707 tanker aircraft can service combat and other aircraft at an almost limitless range from their home base. "We can thereby double the Air Force's capability to carry out a wide array of operations," he says.

The 1 October 1985 Air Force raid on terrorist targets in Tunis, a mission which required in-flight refueling due to the 1,280 miles the aircraft had to fly, was the only such operation that has been reported. Others are still veiled in deep secrecy. Yet "the operation in Tunis exposed the Israeli tanker aircraft's great sophistication."

A combination of high operational requirements presented by the Air Force, coupled with the Israel Aircraft Industries' [IAI] superior technical capability resulted in the remodeling of one of the world's best tanker aircraft, arguably the world's absolute best. The IAI modified the Boeing 707 into a "highly efficient airborne filling station." "Auxiliary fuel tanks and a fuel pump were installed in the fuselage. Refueling 'baskets' were outfitted on the wings of certain aircraft with a 'male' type fuel-injection system; while 'booms' were mounted on other aircraft's tail to create 'female'-type fuel injection systems." The "boom" system consists of a hard refueling hose designed to fit the "female" type of aircraft.

The novelty in the modified Israeli-made Boeing 707 is that anywhere else in the world the "boom" operator must lie on his stomach to guide the nozzle to the fuel intake opening in the combat aircraft, but the solution offered by the Israeli version is "far more sophisticated and elegant." Two closed-circuit television cameras are installed under the refueling aircraft's tail. They transmit a clear picture to the operator's position in the rear of what used to be the passenger compartment in the former civilian aircraft. Using a "stick" akin to an aircraft's rudder, the "boom" operator guides the refueling hose's nozzle to the combat aircraft's refueling inlet. A second camera, installed at the rear of the "boom" provides a close-up of the refueling inlet area, offering additional convenience which translates into "speed and efficiency." The commander of the Air Force's cargo aircraft squadron says "the 'boom' operators are pilots and navigators who double as refueling system operators. When the need arises to activate the 'boom' system, one of them takes the operator's position and carries out the assignment. This saves manpower and allows the individual to demonstrate his technological ability in operating the entire range of aircraft systems." Reserve pilots also undergo this secondary training.

The Boeing 707's carry approximately 28,000 gallons of fuel in the regular and auxiliary fuel tanks. The special pump system can inject approximately 400 gallons of fuel a minute into the receiving aircraft, if it is outfitted with the "male" system, and more than double that if it has the "female" system installed in it.

An aircraft outfitted with both the "male" and the "female" systems was displayed for the first time on Air Force Day several weeks ago. It is capable of simultaneously refueling three aircraft, two of the "male" type and another of the "female" type. As far as both the squadron personnel and the IAI know, this is the only tanker aircraft in the world that has such a capability, and its operational advantages are obvious.

Flight experts familiar with the Air Force's refueling aircraft maintain that it provides the Air Force with an almost unlimited aerial capability. In view of the Iraqis' "impressive" refueling capability, as manifested in the war against Iran, and due to the fact that Libya is obtaining such know-how with the help of FRG experts, "this capability is highly significant."

Drug Networks, Dealers Uncovered, Detained

TA1108144289

[Editorial report] Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew on 11 August in a page 10 report by police correspondent Natan Ro'i reports that "the police have detained several members of a Bedouin drug distribution network which kept a drug warehouse in the Negev township of Rahat and operated in Tel Aviv. It is considered to have been one of the largest drug networks in the area." The report goes on to say that the network "distributed drugs in Tel Aviv area under the guise of a security company owned by them. Network members, who used to receive drug orders from Tel Aviv and central area people known to the police, regularly drove down to Rahat to collect the drugs for their customers."

Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew on 11 August carries a report by David Regev on page 8, saying that "the largest drug station in Ashqelon, which supplied local residents and members of the minorities with drugs, was uncovered Wednesday night by the Lakhish District Police. Dozens of drug doses ready for sale, as well as large amounts of money and 2 kg of gold, were found at the location."

Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1600 GMT on 10 August reports: "Two Druze from northern Israel were arrested in a Tel Aviv hotel and found in possession of 500 grams of heroin. They are suspected of having smuggled heroin from Lebanon and distributed it in Israel for a long time." The report adds: "Another drug dealer was caught in Lod. His arrest came in the wake of two large shipments of cocaine sent from South America to Israeli citizens. The drug had been concealed in trophies."

Police Search AL-FAJR Documents

TA1608050189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 16 Aug 89

[Text] Jerusalem police last night conducted a search of the East Jerusalem newspaper AL-FAJR. Detectives went through documents of the paper and the identity cards of 15 employees. AL-FAJR workers said police took down the numbers on their identity cards.

Leaflet No 44 Bans All Meetings With Israelis

TA1608045489 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 15 Aug 89

[Excerpt] The Unified National Command of the Uprising this evening published a leaflet strongly criticizing meetings between Palestinian notables and Israeli elements. Unlike previous leaflets, this one imposed a total ban on such meetings.

Leaflet No 44 declared that such meetings would be permitted only with Israeli elements who identify with the Palestinian demand for self-determination. The announcement also orders residents of the territories to refrain as much as possible from murdering those collaborating with the authorities. The leaflet states that collaborators will be killed only with the authorization of the Unified National Command, or after the collaborator has ignored repeated warnings to stop his activities.

Leaflet No 44 also orders workers from the territories not to go to work in Israel next week, to protest the inception of regulations restricting the entry of workers from the Gaza Strip into Israel. [passage omitted]

Transit Installations for Detainees in Territories

TA1508092189 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 15 Aug 89 p 2

[Report by Dani Rubinstein]

[Text] In a letter sent yesterday to Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, MK [Knesset Member] Dedi Zucker disclosed the existence of lock-up facilities, called "transit installations," to which detainees are brought immediately after their arrest and in which the Military Police have no jurisdiction, binding legal procedures do not apply, and there is no supervision by the military advocate general.

According to MK Zucker, 13 such installations are located within the premises of the various district commands in the territories. Detainees spend between a few hours to several days in these installations before being transferred to regular lock-up facilities.

"These circumstances create a situation whereby detainees are held in a legal 'no-man's-land'," writes Zucker, "in view of the fact that at that stage they are already considered detainees, but the conditions of detention facilities do not apply to them. There is no supervision of these places, as required by International Red Cross regulations. As opposed to the official lock-up facilities, in some of the transit installations detainees are subject to the arbitrariness of their guards, who are soldiers who have not been trained as prison wardens and whose conduct is not subject to any legal supervision or control whatsoever."

Zucker adds that on a tour of the "beach facility" in Gaza he heard complaints from detainees that during the "no-man's-land period" they were severely beaten by the soldiers in the military base where the transit installation was located. Over the last few days he has also received complaints about the situation in the transit installation in Qalqilyah. Zucker is calling on the authorities to promise to safeguard the rights of detainees and the observation of legal norms even during the initial phase of the arrest.

Physicians Note Inadequacies in Gaza Clinics

TA1508093889 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 15 Aug 89 p 2

[Report by Mikhal Sela']

[Text] The Gaza Strip's hospitals and clinics lack basic equipment and are unable to provide important types of treatment, according to a report published this week by the Association of Israeli and Palestinian Physicians for Human Rights.

The association notes that there is a shortage of physicians in the al-Shifa' government hospital in Gaza, while a number of Palestinian physicians remain unemployed. Moreover, the military authorities use health services as a means of collectively punishing Palestinians for the uprising, the report alleges.

Founded in 1988, the voluntary association has set itself the task "of guarding people's lives and their health...regardless of origin, race and nationality." It monitors the health system in the territories, meets with Palestinian physicians and tries to draw the public's attention to inadequacies in the services provided.

Al-Shifa' hospital, for instance, has no facilities for heart and chest surgery, neurosurgery, radiation therapy or physiotherapy.

Its specialist in blood vessel surgery, who studied in Israel, was dismissed two months ago. The association suspects that his frequent meetings with Israeli doctors caused his dismissal.

The psychiatric department has had to function without a psychiatrist since May 1988. Psychiatric social workers are not available.

The uprising, with its thousands of wounded, has created an urgent need for physiotherapists. The government health system does not provide them. Instead, UNRWA [UN Relief and Works Agency] recently introduced elementary rehabilitation treatment in five of its clincs in the Strip.

There is one oncology clinic in the Strip, which is directed by a hematologist. There are no facilities for pathological diagnosis.

Cancer patients have to be referred to Sheba Hospital in Tel Hashomer, or some other Israeli hospital. Patients must get a special permit from the military authorities for each radiation treatment; Gazans may not be hospitalized in Israel for a series of treatments. As a result, patients have to travel from Gaza to Tel Hashomer and back the same day, regardless of how they feel.

However, the Civil Administration has allocated a special car to provide transportation for a group of patients. But the trip starts at 5 a.m., and the patients invariably feel unwell in the crowded car on the way back. When a curfew is in force, patients are denied scheduled treatments.

Medical equipment in the Strip is often antiquated or unusable. There are no local repair facilities and Israeli technicians refuse to travel to Gaza.

The association's doctors found that the al-Shifa' emergency ward did not have such basic items as an ECG machine, suction tubes, catheters or movable X-ray equipment. Two complete anesthetic kits were missing in the operating room. And al-Shifa' is considered the best hospital in the Strip, the report remarks.

Similar shortcomings were found in the ambulance services. There are 14 government ambulances in the Strip and two run by the Red Crescent; UNRWA owns 10. None of the ambulances has emergency equipment or a communication system. No doctor is allowed to carry a beeper.

There are 500 qualified doctors in the Strip for an estimated population of 700,000 (or one physician for 1,400 residents; in Israel, the ratio is 1/400). Despite the shortage of doctors in the hospitals, several dozen are unemployed. The health budget does not permit the employment of additional physicians. Some of the unemployed are allowed to work on a temporary basis for 100 dollars a month, but cannot perform surgery.

A major concern of the association is the arrest of Gaza doctors without charge or trial. Palestinian doctors in general are not allowed to participate in medical conferences abroad.

A new problem, which according to the report, is connected with the uprising, is army interference in the hospitals and clinics. On March 8, soldiers raided the UNRWA clinic in Jabalyah, broke windows and equipment and disrupted medical care. In another case several months ago, troops shot into the al-Ahali Hospital, wounding at least one person. They later raided the hospital.

Raids on clinics and hospitals have become a regular activity of the army, the report says. In al-Shifa', the IDF has a permanent lookout post. The report mentions the shooting of tear gas inside hospital wards, the unauthorized entry into operating theatres, and the harassment of medical staff.

"The silence of Israeli physicians in light of the abuses described in the report contradicts the spirit of...medicine," the report says.

On the one hand, there is an improvement in the general health of the population, which is confirmed by the decline over the years in the infant mortality rate; but, on the other, the Strip's health services are totally dependent on Israel's health services and the decisions of military and political authorities. "The supply of these services is determined by political policy rather than professional medical opinion," the report concludes.

Further on Unrest in Territories 13 Aug

TA1408120489 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 14 Aug 89 p 8

[Report by Mikhal Qedem, Joel Greenberg, and David Makovsky]

[Text] A 13-year-old boy from Rafah in the Gaza Strip died yesterday of wounds suffered in a clash with troops, and Palestinians reported 25 persons wounded in other incidents in the territories. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] confirmed the death and one other casualty.

The boy, Fayiz Abu-'Ubayd, died in Sheba Hospital at Tel Hashomer of a steel-marble wound sustained Saturday. Despite the curfew imposed on his family's neighbourhood, the news of his death sparked demonstrations.

Troops, in their efforts to disperse demonstrators, shot and wounded eight, according to Palestinian sources. They added that the army in Rafah yesterday also used a helicopter to spray the demonstrators with teargas.

In other clashes with troops, three people in Jabalyah, two in al-Nusayrat and one in Gaza were shot and wounded, according to Palestinian sources.

[Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew on 14 August, in a page A7 report by Avino'am Bar-Yosef, states that "as a result of the numerous disturbances staged by students in the West Bank, the army was forced to close down" the UN Relief and Works Agency school in al-Jalazim refugee camp.]

In the West Bank, 11 persons were reported wounded in confrontations with troops, including a 23-year-old wounded in the head at Bayt Immar. A 14-year-old was injured in a clash between a group of alleged "collaborators" from Fahmah, near Janin, who, according to Arab reports, entered Ya'bad and were confronted by local teenagers.

[Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew on 14 August, in a page 3 report by Dani Rubinstein, Dani Tzidqoni, and the military correspondent, adds: "Residents of the Janin District village of Ya'bad complained yesterday that some 20 local Arabs known as collaborators raided the village in the afternoon hours. They fired in the air, seized villagers and beat them up, made threats, and even entered houses, damaging property." The report further states that "recently, numerous complaints have been received from northern Samaria residents that an armed militia of collaborators assists the security forces, using violence and threats against suspected uprising activists."

The article further reports that "the Jordanian dinar rate in the territories yesterday climbed to 2.8 shekels. The recovery stems from reports of aid extended by Arab oil countries to Jordanian banks. Last week, the dinar rate was 2.3 shekels."]

At Biddiya, Palestinians confirmed military reports that a teacher who was slain in the village on Saturday had been hacked and stabbed to death, and not strangled, as initially reported. Jamal 'Ata, of neighboring Sartah, had been accused of cooperating with the security services and land dealing, but his family yesterday categorically denied the charges. According to reports from the village, 'Ata was taken by masked assailants into the bathroom of the local junior high school, stabbed in the heart and struck on the head and hands with a hatchet. His body was then thrown into the schoolyard, where it was found by troops.

In another case of internecine violence, a Palestinian was wounded yesterday at Ra's 'Atiyah, near Hablah when a roadside charge exploded near his car, military sources said. In Hablah, petrol bombs were thrown at the home of land dealer Ahmad 'Udda, but there were no casualties.

Residents at the Balatah refugee camp reported a large military-style march by some 250 youths in khaki and black uniforms, who broadcast slogans over megaphones in support of last week's Fatah conference in Tunis.

A daily curfew from 4 p.m. to 4 a.m. has been imposed following increased incidents of stone-throwing in the camp at Israeli vehicles, military sources said.

Five Arabs were wounded in the Jerusalem village of Silwan yesterday afternoon as Border Police used rubber bullets and tear gas to quell a violent demonstration by dozens of local people, Palestinian sources said.

The police spokesman confirmed that rubber bullets were fired after a passing Border Police patrol was stoned by demonstrators, who also threw empty bottles. A police spokesman said that a 16-year-old girl who threw stones was arrested.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in English at 0400 GMT on 14 August, adds: "On the al-Tayibah-Eyal Road, four firebombs were hurled towards the military vehicle traveling along the Green Line. The firebombs missed the vehicle and no one was hurt."]

Injuries Reported in 15 Aug Disturbances

TA1608045989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 16 Aug 89

[Text] An Israeli soldier was injured last night when a rock was thrown at him at the Khan Yunus refugee camp. An army spokesman says the soldier returned to his unit after receiving treatment at Barzilay Hospital in Ashqelon.

Five Gaza residents were injured by Army fire yesterday: Four in the Jabalyah refugee camp, and a 14-year-old youth in the al-Burayj camp. This, according to official military sources, who say the army is investigating the disturbances.

Gaza residents claim 11 people were injured in clashes with soldiers.

An Israeli woman driving through East Jerusalem received light head injuries when stones hit her car late yesterday. A Voice of Israel reporter says she was treated on the spot on Salah al-Din Street and returned home.

Government Announces Election Date, Regulations
JN1508204089 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 15 Aug 89

[Text] Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Ibn-Shakir has announced the date of the parliamentary elections. Following is the text of this announcement:

In accordance with the royal decree issued on 30 July, 1989, stipulating elections for the House of Representatives, and in implementation of the provisions of Article 17 of the House of Representatives' Election Law No 22 for the year 1986, the cabinet has decided by its decision No 637 taken on 15 August, 1989, to set Wednesday, 8 November 1989 as the date for electing the House of the Representatives' deputies, in accordance with the election law and its regulations.

On the occasion of setting the 8 November 1989 election date, Salim Masa'idah, deputy prime minister and interior minister, explained that as a result of setting this date, the applications for running in these elections will be accepted as of Saturday, 14 October 1989. Acceptance of these applications will continue for 3 days after this date.

This step concludes a group of preparatory measures defined by law. The interior minister pointed out that the reviewing committees in all the election departments concluded their task this evening, 15 August 1989. After this, these committees will display the lists of names of people who were either added to or deleted from the election lists. The lists will be displayed prominently in the administrative governors' centers as of 23 August 1989 for 1 week, to provide the citizens with the opportunity to practice their right of contesting the lists. The period of contestation lasts for 1 week, ending on 5 September 1989. In accordance with the law, the citizen has the right to contest any of the data appearing on these lists.

Just as the law allows any citizen whose name has not appeared on these lists to submit a legally justifiable appeal to add his name, in the same way any citizen has the right also to contest the name of any other citizen whose name is on the lists without legal justification.

He added that the reviewing committees stipulated by the law will issue their decisions concerning these appeals during the period 6 to 12 September 1989, whereupon the decisions issued by these committees on the contested names will be displayed for 3 days at the administrative governors' centers. This is to provide the opportunity to any citizen who has anything to do with these decisions to contest them before the specialized court of first instance during the period 17 to 19 September 1989. After that, the specialized courts will issue their decisions concerning these cases during the period ending 24 September 1989. The committees are informed of these decisions by the courts during the period ending 27 September 1989, when the lists become final and enforceable for holding the general elections.

Mr al-Masa'idah concluded his explanation by saying that the primary statistics indicate that the number of voters who have registered so far—up until this evening—is approximately 1 million citizens. This number is quite high in relation to the population and the number of citizens who have the right to vote as stipulated by the law.

West Bank Moneychanger Comments on Dinar Rate
JN1408181089 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1430 GMT 14 Aug 89

[Telephone interview with moneychanger Mike al-Kurd by an unidentified correspondent carried within "With the Events" program; date, place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Correspondent] In the [0930 GMT] "With the Events" at mid-day program, we said that the [Jordanian] dinar has witnessed a tangible increase today. How much is the Jordanian dinar being sold for this evening?

[Al-Kurd] It is sold for 3 shekels 10 [agora].

[Correspondent] This is a little less than the afternoon's rate?

[Al-Kurd] A little less.

[Correspondent] What is the reason behind this small drop?

[Al-Kurd] Because there was some increase in the supply of Jordanian dinars and slight demand on the dollar.

[Correspondent] Mike, how do you explain such a recent increase in the dinar's exchange rate?

[Al-Kurd] Because the rate in Amman improved.

[Correspondent] Why?

[Al-Kurd] Because there is now support by the Central Bank [of Jordan], and it introduced dollars into the markets.

[Correspondent] So, it introduced large quantities of dollars?

[Al-Kurd] Yes.

[Correspondent] Does this mean that Jordan has large quantities of foreign currencies?

[Al-Kurd] Now, yes, it does.

[Correspondent] Where from?

[Al-Kurd] From the Arab states, naturally.

[Correspondent] Do you expect the dinar's rate to stabilize as it did today?

[Al-Kurd] It will stabilize, and will probably improve even further.

[Correspondent] Did you notice today that people were selling their dinars?

[Al-Kurd] No. There was great demand for the dinar. They were buying the dinar.

[Correspondent] So they bought dinars?

[Al-Kurd] Yes.

[Correspondent] After the drop in the dinar's exchange rate 2 or 3 weeks ago, do you not think that people lost confidence in the dinar?

[Al-Kurd] I believe that, so far, people have not lost confidence because, here, they depend totally on the Jordanian dinar.

[Correspondent] Can we ask you how moneychangers in the West Bank and Jerusalem determine the dinar's exchange rate?

[Al-Kurd] It depends on supply and demand. This is how we determine the rate.

[Correspondent] This occurs despite the fact that some people accuse you of tampering with rates?

[Al-Kurd] We are not the ones who tamper. There are some other groups which tamper with rates. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Mike, do you advise our listeners to keep their dinars?

[Al-Kurd] Naturally, they must keep the dinars because the dinar will improve even further. This is because information coming from Amman suggests that its rate of exchange will become 60 Jordanian piasters [to the dollar]. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] What was the dollar's rate today?

[Al-Kurd] Today, the dollar stood at about 68 to 70 [piasters]

[Correspondent] Despite the fact that, 3 days ago, it stood at 81 or 82?

[Al-Kurd] Yes.

[Correspondent] Mike, you are giving good news to the listeners that the dinar will rise, and that you advise them to keep the dinar. We hope God will answer your prayer. Thank you.

[Al-Kurd] You are welcome.

Industrial Sector Raises JD181,000 for Uprising

JN1608063089 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 16 Aug 89 p 3

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—The Jordanian industrial sector has raised JD [Jordanian dinar] 181,000 in the first seven months of 1989 for the benefit of the Palestinian people involved in the uprising against Israeli occupation, according to Mamduh al-'Abbadi, secretary general of the National People's Committee for Supporting the Intifadah [uprising].

Al-'Abbadi said that the contributions have been channelled to the national committee which is organising the collection of contributions.

Earlier this month Al-'Abbadi announced that the committee has received a total of JD 2.06 million so far in its efforts to raise funds to support the oppressed Palestinians.

Al-'Abbadi said that JD1,000 were paid to the family of each martyr who had fallen in the course of the intifadah and JD200 to each of the wounded people since Dec. 1987.

Al-'Abbadi also said that the committee has provided training to doctors from the Palestinian lands to offer medical help to the wounded and those suffering from gunshots or poisonous gases used by the Israeli authorities against the protesters.

Petra Bank Manager 'Not Seen' for 48 Hours

JN1308085189 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 12 Aug 89 p 3

[Report by JORDAN TIMES staff writer Ghadir al-Tahir]

[Text] Amman—Petra Bank and its former director-general, Ahmad al-Jalabi, moved into the limelight again Friday with strong speculation that the exhead of the beleaguered bank may have defied a possible government order asking him to remain in the country.

"Al-Jalabi has not been seen by anyone for the past 48 hours and our official records show that he has not left Jordan via legitimate channels," an official source quoted by REUTER said.

Information available to the JORDAN TIMES indicated that the last time Al-Jalabi was seen in Amman was early Tuesday morning at his residence, where he maintained an "open house" for all interested in visiting him after he was removed from the top job at Petra Bank.

Meanwhile a close associate of Al-Jalabi was detained by security forces at the Queen Alia International Airport as he was about to board a flight to London, according to informed sources. The sources said that 'Ali Saraf, who was chief dealer at Petra Bank, was being questioned Friday.

Al-Jalabi, an Iraqi-born banker who sky-rocketed into prominence in banking circles in a relatively short period, was removed from his job as director-general of Petra Bank last week as a result of a merger with the Jordan Gulf Bank ordered by the Economic Security Committee. But he was retained on a six-member team appointed by the authorities to supervise the merger.

An informed source said Al-Jalabi did not attend a pre-scheduled meeting of the merger supervisory team Thursday. "There was a quorum for the meeting, however, and the meeting was held despite Al-Jalabi's absence," added the source, who requested anonymity.

"These are rumours (that al-Jalabi has fled the country), and I refuse to comment on rumours," Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Governor Muhammad Sa'id al-Nabulsi told the JORDAN TIMES in a brief telephone interview Friday.

Sources in the new management of the merged entity have confirmed that Al-Jalabi was asked not to leave the country in a move described as "routine" by some officials. "We want them to be here in Amman when we have to find answers to our questions," said a senior source at Petra Bank last week.

The Central Bank's decision to merge the two banks was "a preemptive move to prevent the collapse of the two banks which would have damaged the economy," Nabulsi said last Friday.

For three days prior to his "disappearance," Al-Jalabi kept an "open house' for bankers, businessmen, journalists and friends in what was seen as a move to squash rumours that he was under "house arrest." The banker claimed, in private remarks to several sources, that he was the "victim of a conspiracy."

The question that arises if Al-Jalabi indeed did leave the country is how he managed his departure? If Al-Jalabi was under orders not to leave the country then his name was or should have been on all departure points in less than three hours after the orders were issued, according to an official source at the Public Security Department (PSD). The official could not confirm that Al-Jalabi did leave the country nor that the banker's name appeared on any black list.

Another senior Petra Bank management source who also could not confirm Al-Jalabi had skipped town said: "I do not know whether he has left the country, but it would seem possible."

Someone who identified herself as a maid at the Al-Jalabi residence answered JORDAN TIMES' queries by saying only that she did not know the whereabouts of the banker.

In a related development, Al-Nabulsi also refused comment Friday on "rumours" that another merger of two local banks was in the offing. "Until we have something official for you, these would remain rumours," he said.

A senior official at the Cairo Amman Bank, asked to comment Thursday whether his bank was one of the banks under a merger consideration, said: "I also have heard the rumours, but we have not been told anything officially."

"At this moment nothing is going on," the official added.

Banker Plans 'To Return' to Amman

JN1308085289 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 13 Aug 89 p 3

[Report by JORDAN TIMES staff writer Ghadir al-Tahir]

[Text] Amman—The saga of ex-Petra bank chairman and director-general Ahmad al-Jalabi took a strange twist Saturday, with the "missing" banker calling up journalists in Amman and denying he had fled Jordan through illegal channels and to say that he planned to return to the country.

"I left Jordan legally and through the airport on Tuesday for holidays... I was never informed about a travel ban and I plan to return to Amman," Al-Jalabi told Radio Monte Carlo, the REUTER news agency and the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) in almost identical statements made in separate telephone calls from a location he did not disclose.

Official Jordanian sources said earlier that Al-Jalabi and other Petra Bank managers were banned from leaving the country. Sources quoted by REUTERS Saturday said that Al-Jalabi left Jordan illegally Tuesday morning and was seen in Damascus by noon.

However, there was a contradiction between the versions given by Al-Jalabi and the source quoted by REUTER since there was no regular Amman-Damascus flight Tuesday, except at 8:30 p.m. If Al-Jalabi did leave aboard that flight he could not have been seen in Damascus at noon.

Senior official sources have confirmed that Al-Jalabi was under an order banning him from leaving the country. "An order was issued, but it was not the (merger supervisory) committee's responsibility to execute it," said one of the sources.

A senior official at the Public Security Department (PSD) told the JORDAN TIMES Friday that if an order was issued against Al-Jalabi leaving the Kingdom then his name should have been on all departure points within three hours from the time the order was issued. The official would not say whether Al-Jalabi's name was at the airport or any of the border points to block his exit from the country.

"We do not have any record of Mr. Al-Jalabi leaving the country through legitimate channels," said a senior Interior Ministry source.

In his telephone calls Saturday, Al-Jalabi expressed "concern" over 'Ali Saraf, director of the foreign exchange department at Petra Bank who was detained at Queen Alia International Airport by security forces Thursday as he was about to board a flight to London. An official source confirmed Friday to the JORDAN TIMES that Saraf was under questioning.

The government's Economic Security Committee, using martial law provisions, merged Petra Bank and Jordan Gulf Bank in what Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Governor Muhammad Sa'id al-Nabulsi described as a "preemptive move to prevent the banks' collapse which would have damaged the economy."

After the merger, a six-member supervisory committee was formed to implement the merger. The Iraqi-born banker was retained in the panel to facilitate the merger process. No date has been set for the completion of the merger and branches of both banks are functioning and offering regular banking services.

In the reported telephone interviews, Al-Jalabi accused the government's supervisory committee of taking actions which, he contended, threatened Petra Bank's international relations, including the interruption of its Visa card international service. But he said it was too early to take "legal action."

Al-Jalabi also contended that he and his close associates were the victims of a "vendetta."

Al-Jalabi also claimed that the merger "was not in the interest of the shareholders of the two banks." Although he refused to reveal his whereabouts to the agencies, he did say he was not in Lebanon.

Al-Jalabi is married to the daughter of 'Adil 'Usayran, who handles the defence portfolio under acting Civilian Prime Minister Salim al-Huss in Lebanon. This link raised speculation that he could have sought "refuge" in Lebanon.

Finance Minister Basil Jardanah refused comment on Al-Jalabi's assertions Saturday except that the banker "is more than welcome to come back and clear this matter.

It was not known whether there were any legal proceedings in the offing against the banker.

However, sources told the JORDAN TIMES that seven Petra Bank officials were suspected of engaging in illegal foreign exchange transactions and speculation with the Jordanian dinar, but would not confirm whether they would be charged. He would not name the suspects.

A senior management source at Petra Bank confirmed that there was a staff reshuffle at the bank. "There were some people whose signatory powers were frozen and who were moved to other positions in the bank," he said, speaking to the JORDAN TIMES on condition of anonymity. The source also said that a similar action was taken at Jordan Gulf Bank with one or two employees but would not elaborate.

Amman, Bonn Sign DM67 Million Accord

JN1408061889 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 14 Aug 89 p 3

[Text] Bonn (J.T.)—A Jordanian-West German agreement signed recently in Bonn provides for grants and loans to Jordan during 1989 amounting to DM67 million and will be spent on ways to help the Kingdom's technological and economic development.

The agreement, signed by Minister of Planning Ziyad Fariz and the director of Arab and North African Affairs Department at the West German Ministry for Economic Cooperation is to help Jordan carry out projects in water and irrigation as well as the on-going preparations for the construction of the al-Wahdah Dam on al-Yarmuk River near the Syrian border.

The two sides also agreed on dispatching more German experts to Jordan to help carry out agricultural projects and execute land reclamation schemes for the purpose of increasing food production.

West Germany has been providing financial and technical assistance to Jordan to help it carry out a development project in the al-Zarqa' River Basin which is also designed to increase the area of productive land, reduce sediments in the King Talal Reservoir and prevent soil erosion.

In the technological field, the two sides agreed that Bonn should provide vocational and technical training to Jordanian trainees and to help the Kingdom in the

course of executing schemes to maintain quality control and standard specifications for manufactured products.

According to a statistical bulletin quoted by the West German Embassy in Amman, Bonn's imports of Jordanian products increased over the 1987 and 1988 period by 18 per cent, rising to DM38.1 million from DM32.3 million in earlier years.

The statistics show that Bonn's exports to Jordan declined from DM416 million to DM311 million over the same periods.

Al-Masri Returns After 'Fruitful' Talks in Moscow

JN1608063889 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 15 Aug 89

[Text] Amman—Tahir al-Masri, deputy prime minister and minister of state for economic affairs, returned to Amman at noon today after a 1-week visit to the Soviet Union. Al-Masri held fruitful financial discussions with Soviet officials dealing with Jordan's foreign debts and increasing the marketing of Jordanian products—phosphate—in the Soviet Union. They also signed the joint Jordanian-Soviet committee protocol.

Shams al-Din Warns West Against 'Show of Force'

LD1508212389 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 15 Aug 89

[Text] Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din, deputy president of the Supreme Shi'ite Council of Lebanon, has expressed optimism concerning the solution of the problem of the Western hostages in Lebanon in the near future. He said: The problem of the Zionist prisoners in Lebanon has nothing to do with the problem of other hostages. The Zionist military personnel were captured by the Islamic forces when they were engaged in an act of aggression against the territory of Lebanon.

According to AFP, Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din said in a press interview: The problem of Western hostages has been placed on the path of solution. However, interested parties must refrain from a show of force and playing the same tune as that of the regime occupying Jerusalem.

Paper Says U.S. Asks PLO Help on Hostages

JN1608162489 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 15 Aug 89 pp 1, 19

[Text] Washington—Official sources at the Middle East desk at the American State Department have disclosed to AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM that the United States has officially asked the PLO to supply any information it may have about Hizballah and its members around the world, especially in the United States and Western nations.

The United States, add the sources, has, through President George Bush and Secretary of State James Baker, vowed that in return it would upgrade the level of American contacts with the PLO, grant Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat an entry visa to the United States to take part in the UN General Assembly deliberations, and also held out the possibility of an 'Arafat-Baker meeting.

The American sources say the United States has informed the PLO that it lacks any meaningful intelligence about Hizballah and that Israel is also short of such information.

The PLO was said by the sources to have adamantly turned down the American request and the attendant offer. However, the sources continued, the United States this week renewed the request, urging that the PLO use its good offices with Hizballah in Lebanon to obtain the release of the American hostages. The United States was said to have declared that it is ready to pay a huge cash ransom. Further, the United States promised the PLO a significant political gain if its efforts with Hizballah should gain the release of the American hostages.

The sources said that President Bush was giving a lot of attention to the hostage issue and that he is about to request certain Arab countries to prevail on the PLO to mediate the hostages' release with Hizballah. The PLO was said to have promised to give serious consideration to the American request and it will respond to Washington.

Many European countries have held intensive contacts with the PLO, asking that it play a mediating role toward that end. The sources added that the United States has repeated the intercession request to the PLO four times over the past 2 weeks.

Syria's Talas Warns E. Beirut on Attacking Syria

NC1608064089 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0430 GMT 16 Aug 89

[Text] Syrian Defense Minister General Mustafa Talas, who has affirmed that Syria does not want a military solution to the Lebanese crisis, has said: We will supply our allies with everything they need if we see they are faced with a real threat because we regard them as part of the Syrian Army. Noting that the Lebanese nationalist forces are free to choose whatever methods they deem appropriate in attaining a solution, Talas welcomed the possibility that the forces loyal to 'Awn would bombard Damascus with their missiles so that some people would realize what their inevitable fate will be. He announced that in such an event, East Beirut will pay the price.

AFP: 'Awn Says Syria 'Totally Miscalculated'

NC1508154889 Paris AFP in English 1513 GMT 15 Aug 89

[Text] Nicosia, Aug 15 (AFP)—Syria and its Lebanese allies "totally miscalculated" by launching an offensive Sunday against the Lebanese Army at Suq al-Gharb, Christian leader General Michel 'Awn said Tuesday.

"Thank God, Syria totally miscalculated this time," he said in a telephone interview with the London newsletter MIDEAST MIRROR, received here.

"It launched its onslaught to preempt political pressure and finish the job (of conquering Lebanon). So it carried out its assault and had a big shock," he said.

Gen. 'Awn's army announced Sunday it had repulsed 1,200 attackers grouping elite Syrian troops, Druze militiamen and pro-Syrian Palestinians during a five-hour battle at Suq al-Gharb, a strategic ridge 10 kilometers (six miles) southeast of Beirut.

About 100 Syrian soldiers or their allied militiamen were killed or wounded, an army official claimed.

Gen. 'Awn said losses among his mainly Christian Lebanese troops were "very limited, relative to the scope of the battle and the weapons that were used in it—destructive weapons, including (Syrian) 240-millimeter mortars."

Syria has denied that its troops were directly involved in the fighting for Suq al-Gharb, a former mountain resort considered a gateway to Lebanon's Christian heartland.

In the interview, Gen. 'Awn dismissed Arab press reports that he had been forewarned about the attack, noting that he was "a professional soldier" who was "alert."

He added that he expected Syria to launch an attack from the Upper Matn, another flank of the Christian region east of Beirut, and vowed to launch preemptive strikes if troops massed there.

'Awn Reportedly Admits Losses on Suq al-Gharb

NC1608064889 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0430 GMT 16 Aug 89

[Text] Michel 'Awn, leader of the military clique, has admitted that 16 members of his clique, ranging in rank from lieutenant to corporal, have been killed. In a statement distributed by al-Yarzah's army yesterday, he claimed that six were killed in the shelling on 9 August. According to the same statement, all those killed were members of Battalions 101, 102, and 103 which are deployed on the Suq al-Gharb front.

'Awn Demands Lifting of Syrian Blockade

NC1608113689 Paris AFP in English 1132 GMT 16 Aug 89

[Text] Beirut, Aug 16 (AFP)—Lebanese Christian leader General Michel 'Awn on Wednesday "unconditionally" accepted a cease-fire call from the U.N. Security Council, but warned that Syria must lift a blockade of Christian ports.

Gen. 'Awn, who has vowed to drive the Syrians out of Lebanon, told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE: "I am committed to the cease-fire call. I accept it unconditionally."

The U.N. Security Council appealed late Tuesday for a "total and immediate" cease-fire in Lebanon.

More than 700 people, mostly civilians, have been killed in five months of fighting between Lebanese Army units loyal to Gen. 'Awn and the Syrian Army backed by its mainly Moslem local allies.

Gen. 'Awn nonetheless warned that he would summon merchants ships to approach Christian-controlled ports, which have been under Syrian blockade for five months, "and if Syria stops a boat to inspect it, that will be an act of war."

The Security Council appealed to the warring parties in Lebanon to "do everything possible to secure the consolidation of the cease-fire, the opening of the lines of communication and the lifting of the sieges."

Syria says it imposed the sea blockade, enforced with artillery fire, to prevent Iraqi arms shipments from reaching Gen. 'Awn's forces.

Gen. 'Awn declared a "war of liberation" March 14 against the 35,000 Syrian troops who control two-thirds of Lebanon and back the rival government of Moslem Premier Salim al-Huss.

'Awn Acceptance of Cease-Fire Appeal Reported

NC1608125989 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 16 Aug 89

[Text] Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn has announced that he accepts unconditionally the UN Security Council appeal for a cease-fire in Lebanon.

In a statement to the AFP and the French paper LE MONDE, he stressed that he is committed to the cease-fire appeal and accepts it unconditionally.

Junblatt Vows To Destroy 'Awn, Condemns West

LD1608100689 Paris Domestic Service in French 0600 GMT 16 Aug 89

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Will the Security Council appeal for a cease-fire be heard in Lebanon? One may well ask oneself that question. If one is to believe remarks made by Walid Junblatt, there is some reason to be anxious. Questioned by our colleagues at Radio France Internationale, the president of the Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party condemned French policy in Lebanon and stated that he is ready to go on to the bitter end for as long as General 'Awn is alive. Walid Junblatt was questioned by Noelle Velli:

[Begin recording] [Junblatt, in French] One should perhaps condemn Michel 'Awn's shelling of Beirut before speaking about the Syrians. Why does international public opinion take no interest at all in the shelling of Beirut and the destruction of Beirut by Michel 'Awn? It is very strange. As long as Western opinion, as long as France continues to support Michel 'Awn, together with the Americans, nothing can be done. There is a very clear and deliberate French-Iraqi-American axis, but above all French-Iraqi, against us and against Syria. If France were to decide to see that Lebanon is not only a Christian Lebanon but a pluralistic and multireligious society, that it has to be a modern and secular country, then perhaps the shelling would stop.

[Velli] What are you asking of France?

[Junblatt] To stop supporting the dictatorship and the military junta of Michel 'Awn.

[Junblatt] Walid Junblatt, what is your precise objective?

[Junblatt] To kill [abattre] Michel 'Awn and afterwards to create a modern, multireligious, democratic, and secular Lebanon. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Junblatt on French Policy, Suq al-Gharb Battle

NC1608095889 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0900 GMT 16 Aug 89

[Text] Walid Junblatt, leader of the Progressive Socialist Party, has condemned the French policy on Lebanon. He demanded that the French Government end its support of 'Awn.

In an interview broadcast by French radio this morning, Junblatt said: There is a very clear French-American-Iraqi axis against us and Syria. Junblatt emphasized that it is necessary to condemn the bombardment of Beirut by 'Awn's cliques before condemning the Syrians. He added: We are not in need of French humanitarian aid, but we need a clear French policy.

Referring to the heroic battle waged by the party's fighters in Suq al-Gharb, Junblatt said: This battle was not a defeat for our forces, but instead proved that we can defeat the army, which claims to be invincible.

Junblatt criticized world public opinion for its lack of interest in the organized destruction of Lebanon. He stressed that this public opinion is currently concerned only with supporting the regime of a madman and criminal named Michel 'Awn.

Al-Huss Welcomes UN Call for Cease-Fire

NC1608124489 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0930 GMT 16 Aug 89

[Text] Prime Minister Salim al-Huss has welcomed the UN Security Council's call for a cease-fire. He said that ending the fighting and all military operations will not only save the people of Lebanon but will put the Lebanese on the road to a solution.

Prime Minister al-Huss urged the council to uphold any step it takes to promote Lebanon's unity and to avoid doing anything that might strenghten the existing artificial division among the various districts. In a message to Algerian Ambassador Hocine Djoudi in his capacity as the council's chairman for this month, al-Huss stressed that the best way to deal with the Lebanese situation is the resolution adopted by the Arab summit in Casablanca. He said: A cease-fire is the demand now. While welcoming the Security Council's call for a cease-fire, we consider that ending the fighting and all military operations will not only save the Lebanese people from further tribulation, but also help place the Lebanese on the road to solving their crisis, the road of dialogue and understanding.

Prime Minister al-Huss added: A stable cease-fire calls for abandoning war slogans. Under the prevailing conditions of division in Lebanon, any war launched by any party to the dispute, regardless of its slogan, would soon lead to the renewal of the civil war. He added that Lebanon's suffering will not end as long as Israel continues to occupy a dear part of its land and launch its savage aggression against Lebanon's people. Al-Huss said: Therefore, we consider the implementation of Security Council Resolution 425 of 1972 as the basis for restoring peace and stability in Lebanon.

PSP Criticizes UN Security Council Resolution

NC1608133589 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 16 Aug 89

[Excerpt] The foreign relations bureau of the Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] has issued a statement commenting on the UN Security Council's resolution. The statement says:

There is something which we wish to inform UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar, the president and members of the UN Security Council, and other international institutions which are interested in justice and human rights. The Security Council has issued a cease-fire resolution after Michel 'Awn declared a war of destruction against Lebanese civilians and a war of liberation against Syria. This cease-fire resolution should have contained a condemnation of 'Awn's criminal actions and a request to the International Court of Justice to try 'Awn as a war criminal.

It is particularly deplorable that the resolution was issued following over 5 and ½ months of a destructive shelling of Beirut by Michel 'Awn, a man who had promised to destroy Beirut nine times over and has kept his promise. [passage omitted]

Jordanian Source Expects UN Meeting on Lebanon

JN1608132089 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 16 Aug 89

[Randah Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] Our radio has learned from an informed source in Amman that the UN Security Council will meet during the coming 24 hours to discuss the Lebanese crisis following the appeal that it issued yesterday calling for an immediate and comprehensive cease-fire in Lebanon.

The source expected the UN Security Council to carry out international interventions to influence the stands of the disputing parties in Lebanon to bring about a cease-fire.

In a related development, an official Jordanian spokesman has affirmed to our radio that Jordan supports any Arab and international endeavors that might result in an end to the status of destruction and bloodshed being witnessed in Lebanon during these hard times.

The source also supported the initiation of tasks by the UN Security Council to tackle the Lebanese situation and said that the situation in Lebanon requires intervention by the council, whose tasks call for keeping international security and peace in the world. The source warned that the continuation of the crisis in Lebanon would pose threats of Balkanization and fragmentation against the entire region.

The source went on to say that the appeals made by the pope as well as the individual stands adopted by the USSR, the United States, and France might produce a collective action that might see light through the UN Security Council. The source affirmed that the UN Security Council is concerned with the Lebanese question, as its Resolution No 425 calls for an Israeli troop withdrawal from Lebanese territory and for the withdrawal of other foreign troops, including the Iranian troops.

French Government Sends Frigate to Lebanon

Equipped With Exocet Missles

NC1508190989 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 15 Aug 89

[Text] The French Government has declared that it sent a frigate armed with Exocet missiles to Lebanon today to protect the French community if the need arises and if it is asked for help and also in order to reinforce its Navy in the East Mediterranean. The French Governnment statement also said that very violent battles are continuing in Lebanon causing many civilian casualties. The French Embassy in Beirut was hit several times by artillery shells, the statement said. The statement said that France is continuing and intensifying its diplomatic efforts with the capitals concerned and international bodies to bring about an immediate end to the battles. The statement said that the French frigate sailed from Toulon port this morning to join two French oil tankers in the area.

REUTER cites a French Defense Ministry spokesman as saying that the frigate is equipped with Exocet missiles and Mazorka sea-to-air missiles as well as torpedoes. According to REUTER, the dispatch of the Duquesne frigate with a crew of 350 indicates that the French Government is ready to back its words with its military might.

The French Embassy in Beirut noted that the French frigate is coming to help if the need arises or if asked to asist in case the French community faces any difficulties.

Commander Cites Reasons

NC1508214689 Paris AFP in English 2040 GMT 15 Aug 89

[Excerpt] Beirut, Aug 15 (AFP)—[Passage omitted] A French frigate, the Duquesne, set sail Tuesday for the eastern Mediterranean to "reinforce the French naval presence there" and "provide any assistance that could be requested and to be ready to aid the French community" in Lebanon, French military officials said.

The skipper of the frigate Le Var, Commander Laurent Latourette, told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE on his arrival at the Cyprus port of Larnaca that the French reinforcements were not a prelude to military intervention in Lebanon.

He added that he had no instructions to interfere in any way "unless in a situation of legitimate self-defense."

Turkish Embassy Personnel in Beirut Evacuated

NC1608131889 Istanbul GUNAYDIN in Turkish 15 Aug 89 p 8

[Coskun Aral report: "Turkish Embassy Evacuated"]

[Text] Beirut (GUNAYDIN)—The Turkish Embassy in Beirut was evacuated yesterday after being caught in the middle of bloody clashes and artillery exchanges between the militia units of General 'Awn, who is also the head of government, and Syrian military forces.

The Turkish Embassy was hit by three shells and damaged extensively during the clashes which occurred 2 days ago, in which more than 100,000 artillery shells fell on the city. The embassy was evacuated because it was believed that the shelter within the building would not provide security for the embassy officials and that the B'abda district of the city, where the embassy building is located, would be the scene of hand-to-hand fighting.

We visited the embassy yesterday morning but found it empty. The building was under heavy artillery fire. We have not been able to determine the whereabouts of embassy personnel and Ambassador Ibrahim Dicleli.

Reportage on Continued Fighting in Beirut Area

Syrians Reportedly Bring Mortars

NC1508184189 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1640 GMT 15 Aug 89

[Text] REUTER cites security sources as saying that at least 15 Syrian soldiers were killed or injured in tank battles at dawn today on a new front north of Beirut at a time when the Syrian forces probed the encircled Christian pocket. These sources said that the Syrians brought Soviet-made 24-mm mortar artillery in the Beirut battles to the front lines at the al-Madfun river 40 km north of Beirut. These had a destructive effect.

[Paris AFP in English at 1650 GMT on 15 August, in a related Balabakk-datelined item, adds: "The Syrian Army and its local allies were massing Tuesday on the northeast flank of Lebanon's Christian region and were expected to launch an attack, security sources said. At least 25 Syrian tanks and large numbers of pro-'Awn

militiamen wer
mount Lebanor
from the Syria
said."]

e taking up positions on the ridges of
, which separates the Christian region
n-controlled al-Biqa valley, the sources

VO
NC1508182689
1630 GMT 15 A

L Says Clashes Intensify
Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
Aug 89

[Text] Clashes o
some 10 minut
positions on th
artillery and roc
to return fire
raysah. We re
bombardment
particularly th
combat lines,
quarters came
moments ago.

n the Beirut port combat line intensified
es ago. The port vicinity and the army
e commercial combat lines came under
ket barrage. The army forces were forced
oward the hotel area and Ayn al-Mu-
eived a report moments ago that the
cross the southern suburb combat lines,
e Saqi al-Hadath-Hayy al-Amirikan
has intensified and that the al-Hadath
under barrage from 120-mm mortars

Israe
NC1608063089
in Arabic 1845

li Warplanes Overfly Sidon
(Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon
GMT 15 Aug 89

[Text] Accordir
Israeli warplane
s are flying over Sidon, dropping flares.

g to a report received from the South,

VOL
NC1508215089
2122 GMT 15 A

Updates Security Situation
Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
Aug 89

[Text] The Syr
trated artillery
Suq al-Gharb a
addition, these
areas in East Be
bombardment
'Ayn 'Unub. At
of northern al-
al-Jumhur, B'al-Matn and shells fell in the areas of
later, the bombda, and al-Hadath. Some 15 minutes
bardment expanded to the center of

ian forces have been directing concen-
fire at the Lebanese Army positions in
nd Dahr al-Wahsh since 2300 today. In
forces opened artillery fire at residential
eirut. At approximately 2300, the Syrian
targetted Bsaba and Kafr Shima from
2330, two shells fell in the central areas

northern al-Matn, and central Kasrawan. The latest areas shelled were central al-Matn, Kasrawan, and 'Ayn al-Rummanah. The shelling of the Bsasba area killed one person and injured another. The Syrian bombardment of the eastern area between 1930 and 2130 covered the areas of B'abda, al-Hadath, al-Hazimiyah, the center of northern al-Matn, and its vicinity. In the meantime, violent clashes occurred in the museum, al-Barbir, al-Tayyunah, Shatila, Saqi al-Hadath, al-Laylakah, Suq al-Gharb, and 'Aytat areas. The Army destroyed a tank in Baysur and a piece of artillery in 'Alyah.

Brigade Breaks Links With Command
NC1608054189 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0430 GMT 16 Aug 89

[Excerpts] It has been reported that violent clashes occurred on the Science College-al-Laylakah combat line this morning. Limited skirmishes also occurred along the Ra's al-Nab'-al-Tayyunah confrontation lines. As of 0200 today, shells began falling in the capital's residential areas. There were intermittent clashes along all confrontation lines in the capital, the southern suburb, and on the mountain. [passage omitted]

According to reports from the north, [former president] Sulayman Franjiyah met yesterday with the commanders of the 7th Brigade in the presence of Sulayman Tony Franjiyah and asked them to sever all links with the al-Yarzah Command. It has been learned that Lieutenant Colonel Lahhud has been appointed commander of the 7th Brigade to replace Colonel Sami Rayhanah. It has also been learned that contacts and the mail service between the 7th Brigade and the al-Yarzah Command have been stopped.

Unidentified Warplanes Over Mountain
NC1608081689 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0745 GMT 16 Aug 89

[Text] Unidentified military planes have been flying for some time now over the mountain area.

Al-Asad, Al-Shar' Meet Iran's Velayati

LD1508180189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 15 Aug 89

[Text] Mr Velayati, our country's foreign minister, and his accompanying delegation met Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad in Damascus this afternoon. During the meeting, Mr Velayati conveyed a message to Mr Hafiz al-Asad from our country's president-elect, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

In the meeting, Mr Al-Asad first sent his warm gretings to Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, thanking him for his message. He then considered the importance of the strategic relations between Iran and Syria, and stressed their expansion. He then pointed to the victory of Islamic revolution and its effect on the region, saying: The Islamic revolution was a great achievement for the Muslims and the Arabs, and we are very pleased about our good relations with Iran. The Syrian president added: Good experience... [changes thought] Profound relations between the two countries can create a suitable ground for the expansion and enhancement of bilateral relations. He then described the current situation in Lebanon and the conspiracies of Michel 'Awn and his supporters against the Lebanese people and the Islamic national forces. He further emphasized the necessity of unity and cooperation in confronting such conspiracies.

The Central News Unit reports that the meeting continued with a discussion of the situation in Afghanistan, the Middle East, and the necessity of serious confrontation against the Zionist regime. Mr Velayati also met Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' in Damascus today. In that meeting, which lasted more than 2 hours, the foreign ministers of the two countries discussed the Lebanese and Palestinian situations, bilateral relations, and regional issues. They emphasized the necessity of cooperation in confronting the conspiracies of the Zionists and their agents in Lebanon.

Al-Asad Accepts Invitation to Visit

JN1508205889 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2015 GMT 15 Aug 89

[Text] His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad received Iranian Foreign Minister Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati and his delegation at 1230 today. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and the Iranian ambassador in Damascus.

Dr Velayati conveyed a message from President Hojatt ol-Eslam 'Ali Hashemi-Rafsanjani containing a renewal of the invitation extended to his excellency the president to visit Iran. His excellency the president thanked President Hashemi-Rafsanjani for this invitation. It was agreed that the visit will be made in the near future.

Dr Velayati also conveyed to his excellency the president the greetings of President Hashemi-Rafsanjani as well as those of the Iranian leadership. His excellency the president thankfully accepted these greetings and asked him to convey his greetings to President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the Iranian leadership, and the Iranian people.

The talks revolved around the situation in the region, the developments in the Lebanese arena, and bilateral relations.

More on Discussions

JN1508121389 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 115 GMT 15 Aug 89

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and his delegation at 1230 today. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and the Iranian ambassador in Damascus.

Earlier this morning, a session of official talks was held between the Syrian Arab side under Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and the Iranian side under Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Also participating in these talks were Diya'ullah al-Fattal, assistant foreign minister; Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam, Iranian assistant foreign minister; and Hasan Akhtari, the Iranian ambassador in Damascus.

Discussions revolved around means to promote the existing relations of friendship and cooperation between Syria and Iran in various fields. Current developments in the region and the world situation were also discussed.

Al-Shar', Iran's Velayati Meet Lebanese Groups

LD1508181389 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1700 GMT 15 Aug 89

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that a joint session of Islamic and national forces of Lebanon was convened this afternoon in Damascus in the presence of the foreign ministers of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Arab Republic of Syria. That session, which is being held for the first time in Damascus, enjoys great significance, particularly under the present conditions. The session was convened following the convention of Islamic and national Lebanese and Palestinian forces, which was held in Tehran simultaneously with ceremonies marking the 40th day following the demise of Imam Khomeyni—may his dust be sanctified.

In this session, which is still in progress, the Lebanese Hizballah movement is represented by Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli, the Amal Movement is represented by Nabih Birri, the Progressive Socialist Party is represented by Walid Junblatt, the Lebanese Tawhid Movement is represented by Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban, and seven other parties and groups from Lebanon and Palestine also are present.

Meeting Called 'Council of War'

NC1508160489 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1430 GMT 15 Aug 89

[Text] An expanded meeting is currently being held in Damascus, attended by leaders of all the Lebanese and Palestinian nationalist and Islamic forces. An informed source described this important meeting as tantamount to a council of war. The meeting is being attended by Minister Nabih Birri, leader of the Amal Movement; Minister Walid Junblatt, leader of the Progressive Socialist Party; George Hawi, secretary general of the Lebanese Communist Party; 'Isam al-Mahayri, leader of the Syrian Social Nationalist Party—the Emergency Council; Dawud al-Baz, leader of the Syrian Social Nationalist Party—the Higher Council; Deputy Zahir al-Khatib, secretary general of the Workers League; Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban, leader of the Islamic Unification Movement; Sa'd al-Din Hamadah Saqr, leader of the Islamic Grouping Movement; Malik 'Allush from the Islamic grouping; Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli and Husayn al-Musawi from Hizballah; and 'Asim Qansuh, secretary of the Ba'th Party Organization in Lebanon. Of the Palestinian nationalist forces, the meeting is being attended by Khalid al-Fahum from the Palestinian National Salvation Front; Ahmad Jibril, the secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine—General Command; Colonel Abu-Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha], secretary of Fatah—the Uprising; and Muhammad Khalifah from the al-Sa'iqah Organization.

Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, who is currently in Damascus, and Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' joined the meeting 2 and ½ hours after its start.

'Asim Qansuh said that the conferees are determined to wage a decisive battle against General 'Awn and that in order to maintain Lebanon's unity, they will fight to end the plot that 'Awn is implementing.

Velayati, Lebanese Stress Unity

LD1608053189 Tehran IRNA in English 0524 GMT 16 Aug 89

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 16, IRNA—Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati currently in Syria attended a joint session with leading officials of Lebanese militia groups, Amal and Hizballah. The meeting was held at the Iranian Embassy in Damascus Tuesday night.

During the meeting attended by Hizballah leaders 'Abbas Musawi, Shaykh Su'bhi al-Tufayli and Amal leader Nabih Birri, the latest situation in Lebanon and joint plots of Zionist and Michel 'Awn forces in Lebanon were discussed.

All parties stressed unity of the Islamic forces in confronting the Zionist forces and 'Awn's illegal government.

Velayati carrying a message from President-elect Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani arrived in Damascus on Monday.

Information Minister on 'Awn, Nationalist Forces

JN1508183289 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1710 GMT 15 Aug 89

[Louis Faris dispatch from Damascus]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Syrian Information Minister Muhammad Salman has stated that the calls addressed to Syria to help in halting the fighting in Lebanon should be addressed to General Michel 'Awn who is responsible for the military escalation and who insists on fighting. Salman added that 'Awn has explicitly stated that there is no alternative to the escalation. Thus, he must bear the consequences of his position. Minister Salman explained that the [Lebanese] nationalist forces are now replying to 'Awn's escalation of the fighting in defense of their existence, and Syria supports these forces and their just demands which consist of bringing about equality among all the Lebanese.

Minister Muhammad Salman said that Gen Michel 'Awn is implementing the schemes of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and Zionism in seeking to dismember and destroy Lebanon.

Afghanistan

Najibullah Addresses 'Opposition' Commanders

LD1608063689 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0436 GMT 16 Aug 89

[Text] Kabul, August 15, BAKHTAR—President Najibullah, met at the Gol Khanah presidential palace on August 14 with a number of commanders of the armed opposition groups recently joined the national reconciliation policy in the Ghowr and Balkh Provinces.

The Afghan leader during his brief speech spoke on the current situation in the Republic of Afghanistan and constructive measures adopted by the State of the RA [Republic of Afghanistan] for the cessation of war and ensurance of peace and security in the country.

While exposing hostile activities of the enemies of the people of Afghanistan, Pakistani militarists and Saudi Wahhabis, Najibullah, once again drew the attention of the armed opposition commanders to the ending of war and bloodshed and preservation of sacred religion of Islam and independence of the country as well as their unity and struggle for the just Islamic and humane objectives of the policy of national renonciliation.

Pointing out the criminal and savage acts of the people's enemy and intensification of differences among the "Seven Alliance", Najibullah said that Pakistan and the US by supporting and arming of war-mongering extremists and their export into Afghan territory, trample under feet the provisions of the Geneva accords and have determined to continue the fratricidal war in Afghanistan.

While addressing to the surrendered armed opposition commanders, President Najibullah said, our way is a rightful and Islamic one, we want peace and tranquillity in the country. We are in favour of solving all differences through peaceful means. But people's enemy in order to hide their repeated defeats on the war fronts continue murder, arsonning and plunder in the country. They intend to transfer the Rawalpindi made extremists government inside the RA and make Afghan land as the 5th sub-province of Pakistan. [passage indistinct]

Rebel Leader Says Jalalabad To Fall in 5 Months

PM1508152689 Jeddah 'UKAZ in Arabic
8 Aug 89 p 8

[Interview with "Commander Shamsoddin, commander of Afghanistan's eastern region," by Husni Mubarak in Khamis Mushayt; date not given]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Mubarak] Commander Shamsoddin, we have heard it said often that the mujahidin's capture of Jalalabad is imminent, and there have been conflicting statements by mujahidin lea
regard to that step. Can you explain to us aders with mujahidin forces have failed to capture the s why the now? city until

[Shamsoddin] I would not conceal from you th
there are disputes among some mujahidin grou e fact that disputes have led to confusion within the ra ps. These rupting the organization and planning requir anks, dis-storming the city. And also do not forget tha red before arms, like any other army. But some of the si we need supply us with arms have stopped doing so states that recent developments in the area. Anyhow, the r following united and we are now on the alert, and withi anks have 5 months we will capture Jalalabad. in the next

[Mubarak] But the United States maintains tha
supplying the mujahidin with arms. In fact, iat it is still that as a political card in negotiations with th it is using What truth is there in this? he Soviets.

[Shamsoddin] It is as you described it—merel
ical card and rumors promoted by the United ly a polit-Western media services with a view to securi States and gains within the framework of the ongoing ing certain conflict. Of course, I cannot conceal the fact tha East-West received U.S. arms, but they came not as aicat we have price, as happens on the international arms mad but at a it stand to reason that the pragmatic, materialirket. Does will supply us with arms for nothing? I do not listic West t belive so.

[Mubarak] Has Pakistan's position on th
problem changed under Benazir Bhutto? he Afghan

[Shamsoddin] Pakistan's policy toward us
changed. But internal conditions in Pakistan s has not forefront of Pakistani Prime Minister Benazi are at the priorities. And you can tell the difference ir Bhutto's know that Pakistan helped and backed us str when you openly under the late Pakistani President Z rongly and [passage omitted] Ziaul Haq.

Mujahidin Gunners Shell Kabul Airport 1

BK1508115289 Hong Kong AFP in English 11 15 Aug
15 Aug 89 141 GMT

[Text] Kabul, Aug 15 (AFP)—Mujahidin gunn
barrage of nine rockets onto Kabul airport ners sent a slightly damaging the runway and temporarily l Tuesday, traffic, airport sources said. halting air

Journalists attempting to reach the airport, on
eastern edge of the city, were turned back b the north-forces who said that no planes were taking off by security rockets landed in the morning. There were no i T when the reports of casualties. immediate

Earlier in the day, government spokesman M
Nabi Amani said that in the four weeks up to lohammad 188 civilians had been killed and 483 wounde o Tuesday, by rockets. d in Kabul

Mr. Amani said Monday that security forces around the capital of some 1.5 million people had decided to start expanding the city's security perimeter after reports that the mujahidin were equipped with new longer-range rockets.

Soviet troops withdrew from Afghanistan six months ago Tuesday but the mujahidin resistance has been unable to take Kabul or any other major city from the Moscow-backed government.

Fighting in Nangarhar, Other Provinces Noted

LD1608083689 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0503 GMT 16 Aug 89

[Text] Kabul, August 15, BAKHTAR—In the continuation of the mopping up operations of the Jalalabad garrison carried out in different directions of that city the areas were cleared from the presence of the criminal extremists, supported by Pakistan. Large quantities of armaments fell at the hand of the Armed Forces and 5 criminals captured, an authorised military source said.

The joint enemy forces, backed by the heavy arms of the 11th Pakistani Corps, attacked security posts and residential areas in Samar Kheyl, Sorkh Rud, Chapliar Khwar and Behsud Districts, Nangarhar Province. No one was killed or wounded. The air and artillery forces and contingents and detachments in Jalalabad retaliated. Nineteen extremists were killed and 36 others wounded.

The source added that as a result of the heavy fires of the extremist criminals in the Khowst Grand District and Herat and [word indistinct] provinces a serviceman and 3 civilians were killed and 7 others wounded.

The Armed Forces in their retaliatory attacks killed 32 enemies and wounded 47 others.

India

President Venkataraman Addresses Nation 14 Aug

BK1508103389 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1445 GMT 14 Aug 89

[Speech by President Ramaswamy Venkataraman to the nation on 14 August, the eve of Independence Day—recorded]

[Text] Friends, on this auspicious 42d anniversary of our independence, I have great pleasure in extending to all fellow citizens residing in India or abroad my heartiest greetings and good wishes. To our devoted kisan [farmers] and mazdoor [laborers], brethren who are the backbone of the country, and to the valiant members of our defense forces who are the guardians of our freedom and frontiers, I would like to add a special word of felicitation.

Even as the nation celebrates this anniversary, our thoughts turn to the devastating floods in several parts of the country, which have caused immense loss of life and property in recent months. The nation's sympathies go to all those affected families. Each anniversary of our independence reminds us of the epic struggle for freedom that was waged for well-nigh a century. Brave sons and daughters of India faced persecution, repression, and even death, with no desire other than winning freedom for the country. They regarded no price and no sacrifice—not even their very lives—as too great for swaraj [self-rule].

In that great flash point of our history—the first war of independence that was fought in 1857—countless Indians, including the legendary Rani Lakshmi Bai of Jhansi, fell smilingly before the might of the British arms. Undaunted, the people of India—irrespective of regional, linguistic, or religious denominations—continued to fight the foreign yoke as one man. We are reminded today of Veera Pandiya Kattabomman in the South; Shahid [martyr] Bhagat Singh and Chandrashekhar Azad in the North; Basudev Ballan Padke and Tilak Maharaj in the West; Maniram Dutta, Gopavindra Das, and Aravinda Ghosh in the East—to name a few of the pioneers who cheerfully plunged their lives into the fire of struggle. Our thoughts also turn to Netaji Subhash Bose and his ringing call Dilli Chalo [go to Delhi]. Above all, we are reminded today of the revolutionary among sages, Mahatma Gandhi, of sacred memory—softer than the cotton he spun in his compassion, but harder than steel in his resolve. Gandhiji galvanized the entire nation into heroic action. Men became [word indistinct] in his touch, and inspirations became movements as he took the country to the dawn of freedom.

We salute today the entire grand tapestry of India's struggle for freedom, in which the services and sacrifices of all those noble Indians are woven in beautiful strands of gold. But mere salutations are no substitute for emulation. We will be disappointing the souls of that great galaxy of freedom fighters if we were to remain content with singing the praise of their sacrifices. They would expect us to carry the struggle forward toward the goals which they had set before us—namely, the eradication of poverty and inter-communal conflicts. This latter task is a formidable one and still remains to be achieved, though we have taken rapid and confident strides toward that goal.

Our foremost and most spectacular achievement has been our established record of regular, systematic, and orderly elections that are the very foundations of democratic governments. There are not many among the nations that became free after the World War II which like India can claim to have a vibrant parliamentary form of government based on periodic general elections. The credit goes to the great architect of democracy, Shri Jawahar Lal Nehru, who with his colleagues in the Constituent Assembly took the bold and courageous step of trusting the masses of India with the universal adult franchise.

Critics and skeptics—both in India and abroad—wondered how an orderly election could be held in which 180 million illiterate persons unfamiliar with the electoral process would be called upon to vote. But the Indian masses took the entire world by surprise by the mature manner in which they exercised their franchise and chose their representatives. The massive turnout of women at the polling booths and the meticulous way they voted showed that they were nowhere behind their compatriots anywhere in the world. In the eight general elections and in innumerable other elections to state legislatures, the Indian voter has shown himself to be skilled and decisive. Given the proper environment, the Indian voter knows his mind and exercises his franchise with great discrimination.

In the next few months, the country will face the ninth in its series of general elections. They are our single greatest national event, straddling all regions, languages, creed, and classes. They articulate the political ethos of our people as a whole. Indeed all Indians—rural or urban, rich or poor, educated or illiterate—become we-the-people on the election day, that supreme collective entity which our Constitution speaks of.

As you are all aware, the voting age has been recently lowered from 21 to 18 in order to secure the active participation of the youth in our democratic system. Their idealism will no doubt play an effective and responsible role in the electoral proceedings.

I wish to take this opportunity to impress upon all those who will be contesting the ensuing elections to abjure acrimony and rancor and to give no quarter to violence. I would like to make a special appeal to the contestants and campaigners to ensure that nothing that they say or do aggravates communal or caste feelings. They must also exhibit their respect for the rights of others and the tolerance for contrary points of view. Elections can and do arouse passions, but let those passions be converted in delight and not heat. Let the elections be fought with dignity, decorum, and decency. The use of money and muscle power and the totally unacceptable practices of voter intimidation and booth capturing offend the very foundations of our sociopolitical order. Political parties, whether ruling or in opposition, shoulder a grave responsibility in this regard. Ultimately, it is their campaign's (?tale) which can make or mar the elections. The election ethics, as I have said on earlier occasions, are not a matter of procedure alone. They are the veritable lifeblood of the political system which our people have given unto themselves.

And so, as the next round of elections draws near, may I express my confidence, hope, and expectation that the elections will be free and fair. Officers on the election duty must discharge their responsibilities as a sacrament, no less. The electoral machine must continue to function as it has in the past with impartiality and objectivity. The great Tamil poet Subrahmaniam Bharati sang in the 20's of this century when freedom was a dim distant goal: We are all sovereigns of the country. The poetic benediction has come true, but sovereignty of the people will become illusory unless the true will of the people is reflected in the legislatures through fair elections.

Ensuring free elections must be the joint endeavor of all parties and the sacred duty of the nation. I am sure that nothing will be done by anyone to cut at the very roots of democracy.

India's enviable record in the matter of elections is matched with its record of all-round socioeconomic progress. The instrumentality of planned economic development bequeathed to us by the great statesman, Jawahar Lal Nehru, whose birth centenary we are celebrating this year, has yielded rich dividends, enabling us to meet the hostilities [with Pakistan] of 1965 and 1971 with success, to stand the successive natural calamities like droughts and floods, cope with the fluctuations in international trade and its protectionist trends and steep rise in international oil prices.

The chronic food shortages which riddled us in the fifties and the sixties are now a thing of the past. Food grain production is expected to reach a record of 172 million tonnes this year. I would like to take this opportunity to felicitate the kisans of India, whose traditional skills, hard work, and readiness to innovate have contributed to this phenomenal achievement. Our public distribution system has been stabilized, and we are geared to meet any crisis situation.

Our industrial infrastructure has firmed up, and among developing countries we are in the front line in the production of basic industrial goods. The policy of economic liberalization ushered in the early eighties has further widened in coverage and depth, and anachronistic controls have been gradually removed. Our admiration and gratitude are due to the industrial labor force and to the entrepreneurs and managers who rendered this growth prospects.

In the field of science and technology, we have achieved a significant breakthrough. Our achievements have been particularly notable in electronics, oceanography, and defense research. It should now be our endeavor to provide a firm foundation for research-based industrial activity. Our universities should in the process become centers of excellence and generators of new idea. They should become engines of social transformation through application of science and technology to the needs of the masses. The nation is proud of its scientific community and looks upon it with confident expectations of higher and even higher achievement.

The recent successful launching of Agni [surface-to-surface missile] has brought vividly to life the pace and power of our techno-industrial progress through self-reliance. But apart from the satisfaction afforded by these indices of progress, there is the even greater satisfaction of seeing tangible improvements in the quality of

life of our people. Thus, for example, the death rate which stood at 27.4 per thousand in 1950 has come down to 10.9 in 1987, and the life expectancy has gone up from 32 to 58.

Extensive programs of poverty alleviation launched by the government combined with renewed efforts to strengthen village-level democracy and foster employment through the Jawahar Rozgar Yojna [employment scheme] (?aims) to further improve the quality of life in rural India. Much has been done, but more remains to be done for the removal of the curse of illiteracy among our people. The status of weaker sections, especially our women and those belonging to the scheduled castes and tribes, needs continuing attention. Crimes against women are a blot on our conscience, and we must spare no effort to punish the perpetrators of such crimes.

I would also like to take this opportunity to express my anxiety over the continuing growth of population, which threatens to nullify our progress. Rising numbers have accentuated problems of urban squalor and placed a heavy strain on the available food and housing facility and on the civic services. Our population is projected to reach 986 million by the year 2001 A.D. The pressure of population has also led to deforestation with the disastrous consequences to ecology. It has also caused a discord, tension, and outbreak of violence.

India has been a pioneer in adopting voluntary family limitation as a national policy. It is essential that all sections of our society become alive to the urgency and imperative need for population stabilization. It is gratifying that outstanding socio-political disputes, such has assailed Tripura and Darjeeling, have been satisfactorily resolved since the last Independence Day. Acts of terrorism perpetrated in the Punjab and in its environs continue to anguish us, especially since the victims are invariably innocent men, women, and children. But in major respect, the terrorists have been tasting defeat after defeat. The people of India have by and large refused to be provoked into hatred and violence. They have given no room for communal discord and have upheld the values of communal harmony and nonviolence, which our saints and statesmen have instilled in us. We must never give the slightest quarter to the canker of communal hatred and must continue to reject the evil of violence as a barbaric practice, unbecoming of any society, much more so of a civilization such as ours.

It is again our tradition of friendship and nonviolence that has made us seek good-neighborly relations with all countries in our region. The concept of a nuclear-free nonviolent world, which India has consistently propounded, is gaining more and more acceptance in the world. Our own cultural traditions have strengthened our faith in the peaceful settlement of problems. The message of the Buddha went from here to the world. It is here that Kabir [Hindu saint], Nanak [Sikh religious leader], and in our time [Mohandas] Gandhi preached the gospel of tolerance and broad-mindedness. Those who seek narrowly in terms of community and sect are scarce remembered even by their community and the sect. Their small gains achieved, they pass into oblivion. But those who speak of unity and brotherhood—aims that are truly big—remain permanently enshrined in the pages of history.

I am reminded today of the memorable lines written by Mohammad Iqbal in his great poem Naya Shivalaya. One unforgetable stanza in it says: Come, let us build a new temple in our land, its pinnacle rising higher than that of any other, its colors touching bosom of the sky.

Friends, on this Independence Day let us resolve to raise in our hearts and minds an edifice of which the bricks will represent our rich diversity and the (?mortar) our indestructable unity. And may this edifice soar skywards and proclaim the eternal truth—the world is one family. Jai Hind [Hail India].

Rajya Sabha Members Argue Over Gandhi Speech

BK1608104289 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 16 Aug 89

[Text] The Rajya Sabha witnessed acrimonious exchanges for over an hour today over a reference in the prime minister's address to the nation yesterday that some elements supported by subversive and secessionist forces have found their way into Parliament. The opposition wanted the prime minister to make a statement and identify such member.

The home minister, Mr Buta Singh, offered an immediate discussion on the issue. He said he will put before the house the evidence with the government against the member. He assured the house that the government will prove every word that the prime minister said. There were heated exchanges and noisy scenes [that] prevailed for quite some time. Mr Buta Singh again said that the government will take action, but before that, the traitor elements will be fully exposed. The parliamentary affairs minister, Mr H.K.L. Bhagat, said let there be an immediate discussion on subversion and separatism.

The leader of the house, Mr Shiv Shankar, clarified that the prime minister's speech related to the overall situation in the country and let it be discussed.

Independence Day Bombings Injure 40 in Kashmir

BK1608000889 Hong Kong AFP in English 1730 GMT 15 Aug 89

[Text] New Delhi, Aug 15 (AFP)—More than 40 people were injured Tuesday [15 August] when suspected Moslem separatists set off four bombs and fought with security forces in the northern state of Jammu and Kashmir, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA [PTI] reported. The attacks coincided with the 42nd anniversary of Indian independence.

One of the bombs exp
Mohammed Shafi Q
India's ruling Congress
PTI said. A jeep parke
the building damaged

ploded in a garage at the home of
Qureshi, state unit president of
ss (I) Party, in the city of Srinagar.
ed in the garage was blown up and
l extensively.

A total of 27 people we
a bomb planted under
Kadal area of downto
sioner M.S. Pandit wa
saying. Four of the inj

vere hospitalised with injuries after
r a push cart went off in the Habba
wn Srinagar, Divisional Commis-
vas quoted by the news agency as
ijured were in critical condition.

Four paramilitary Ce
sonnel were injured i
Anantnag, another tow
were quoted as saying
Srinagar, caused no ca

entral Reserve Police Force per-
in stone-pelting in Srinagar and
wn in the Kashmir valley, officials
g. Two other explosions, also in
asualties, PTI said.

Unofficial reports qu
civilians were injured

oted by PTI said more than 15
in incidents at Anantnag.

Moslem separatists in
Moslem-majority stat
Independence Day ce
strike Tuesday, which
and businesses shut a
roads in response to
government's efforts t
said.

Jammu and Kashmir, India's only
te, had asked people to boycott
elebrations and observe a general
h they called "Black Day." Shops
and public transport went off the
the strike call, despite the state
o persuade people to ignore it, PTI

Pro-Pakistan Moslem
tionally observed Indi
Pakistani national fla
gans. They have stepp

separatists in Kashmir have tradi-
ian Independence Day by hoisting
gs and shouting anti-Indian slo-
ed up violence in recent months.

Moslem fundamentalis
tric poles and set off b
Monday to mark neigh
day, which falls a day

ists hoisted Pakistani flags on elec-
balloons and fireworks in Srinagar
hbouring Pakistan's independence
earlier than India's.

Pakistani, Soviet, O
BK1508025489 Delhi
0130 GMT 15 Aug 89

ther Leaders Send Greetings
Domestic Service in Hindi

[Text] On the occasi
August], various head
sent congratulatory m
stani President Ghular
Ms Benazir Bhutto ha
will make every effor
India.

on of the independence day [15
ds of state and government have
nessages. In their messages, Paki-
m Ishaq Khan and Prime Minister
ave reaffirmed that their country
rt to improve friendly ties with

The Soviet Union has
Soviet cooperation wil
fits of the peoples of t

s expressed the hope that India-
ll further strengthen for the bene-
he two countries.

In their separate mess
Arab Emirates, Syria,
wished for the progres

ages, the heads of state of United
Maldives, and Seychelles have
ss and prosperity of India.

More Joint Venture Projects With USSR Proposed
BK1308105389 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 13 Aug 89

[Text] Several India-Soviet joint ventures providing for export to third countries are on the anvil. In a major breakthrough in bilateral cooperation, these joint ventures are expected to be set up on the understanding that two-thirds of production is sold in India and the Soviet Union. A proposal in this regard made by the Federation of Indian Export Organizations has been accepted in principle by the Soviet side. The proposal was made at a workshop on India-USSR business cooperation held in Moscow. A delegation of over 100 representatives of Indian trade and industry and 250 delegates from various Soviet republics representing business interests participated in the workshop. Both Soviet and Indian sides called for expediting the setting up of trade centers in the two countries for achieving the goal of increasing bilateral trade by 2.5 times from the present level.

Sikh Students Federation Leader Killed
BK1408015589 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 13 Aug 89

[Text] In Punjab, the general secretary of the All India Sikh Students Federation, Mr Jarnail Singh, and two hardcore terrorists were killed last night. A large quantity of arms and ammunition and explosive material were recovered from the spot, where the terrorists were killed, following an encounter with the security forces on the outskirts of Amritsar city.

The general secretary, Mr Jarnail Singh, was shot dead while standing at the Vira bus stand in Ferozepore District. Two scooter-borne terrorists fired at him from close range.

6 'Terrorists' Killed in Punjab 14 Aug
BK1508041889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0255 GMT 15 Aug 89

[Text] In Punjab, six terrorists have been killed in separate incidents since yesterday evening. In Amritsar District, security forces shot dead four terrorists after their raid on their hideout at Kohali. One AK-47 rifle was recovered. In Obuke area of the same district, one terrorist was killed and five surrendered, following combing operations. [figures as heard]

Team Visits Violence-Affected Areas in Assam
BK1308091489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 13 Aug 89

[Text] A high-level central team is in Assam to review the situation in the wake of the eruption of violence following group clashes in the Gohpur area of Sonitpur District bordering Arunachal Pradesh. The team will

coordinate with the authorities of the two states to prevent recurrence of such violence. The team will also look after the relief and rehabilitation measures for the affected people.

Meanwhile, the curfew in the affected areas continues as a precautionary measure. The Assam home minister, Mr Bhrigu Phukan, has said that the state government has deployed additional forces in the area and has instructed the district authorities to provide security and relief to the victims.

Police Burn Seized Heroin, Marijuana 11 Aug
BK1108131889 Hong Kong AFP in English 1301 GMT 11 Aug 89

[Text] New Delhi, Aug 11 (AFP)—Police burnt 505 kilograms (1,111 pounds) of drugs on the banks of the Yamuna River here Friday in the second public destruction of seized narcotics in three months.

Minister of State for Finance Ajit Panja lit the bonfire, consigning to the flames 15 kilograms (33 pounds) of heroin and 490 kilograms (1,078 pounds) of marijuana confiscated from drug smugglers and traffickers, police said.

The public destruction was aimed at scotching public fears that seized drugs were finding their way back onto the streets. In June police had burnt 872 kilograms (1,918 pounds) of drugs at the same site.

"It will allay the doubts of the people who believe that seized drugs get recycled," Mr. Panja said, adding that India was the only country which had legal provisions for pre-trial disposal of narcotics after retaining samples for evidence.

India has in recent years emerged as a transit point for narcotics smuggled into the west. Local drug trafficking has also increased and the number of addicts has been burgeoning. Police stores in the capital hold more than 1,000 kilograms (2,200 pounds) of seized drugs.

Future Nuclear Reactor Plans Detailed
BK1208163189 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 12 Aug 89

[Text] India is constructing another 12 nuclear reactors of 235 megawatts capacity each and 6 reactors of 500 megawatts capacity each, to be complete by the year 2000. The first reactor of this series at Narora reached criticality in March this year. Other than this, India has decided to construct two more reactors of 1,000 megawatts capacity each with Soviet assistance. This was stated by the secretary of the Department of Atomic Energy of India, Mr M.R. Srinivasan, in an interview to an Indian weekly. He said overall 32 nuclear reactors will start operating in India by the year 2000, out of which 26 reactors will be designed and built with indigenous technology.

Iran

Hashemi-Rafanjani Addresses Majlis Session

LD1508121889 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 15 Aug 89

[Text] The Islamic Majlis held a session today, chaired by Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani. On the basis of a draft bill approved during today's open session of the Islamic Majlis, with the merger of the Ministries of Defense and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, the Ministry of Defense and Support of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran [vezarat-e defa' va poshtibani-e niruha-ye mosallah-e jomhuri-e eslami-e iran] will be formed. This ministry will be a government department in charge of supporting the Armed Forces within the framework of the laws, and also under the management [tadabir] of the commander-in-chief.

During today's Majlis open session, which was held for the last time with Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani in the chair, the debate began on the details of the bill on the establishment of the Ministry of Defense and Support of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic. After the debate and discussion among the deputies, several articles from the total of 19 articles were approved.

During this session, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, referring to his attending the Majlis open session as the speaker of the Islamic Majlis, said: His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i will hold the title of president until his term of office ends, unless his eminence steps down before the end of the legal period.

According to a Central News Unit report, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, during a farewell ceremony with the Majlis deputies, referred to the role of the Majlis in the system of the Islamic Republic as a friendly, eloquent, lively Majlis and a supporter of the serving executive organs. While expressing regret at leaving the Majlis, he said: I personally owe most of the experience I have gained to the Majlis. I feel that I have the merit to call myself an apprentice and a son of the Majlis, and I beseech God to enable me to repay my debt to the Majlis.

Referring to the role of the Majlis under the previous Constitution, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: In the amended version of the Constitution, greater attention is paid to the Majlis, and the deputies are given greater power regarding impeachment of the president, the president's responsibility before the Majlis, and submission of the cabinet's ratifications to the Majlis speaker. Referring to the fact that a large number of deputies elected by the nation assemble in the Majlis and that the same assembly makes it impossible for the Majlis to betray or make a mistake, the speaker of the Islamic Majlis praised the existing freedom in the Majlis as something unique in the world. He said: Such an organ, with its open tribune and the experience it has gained during the past few years, cannot betray; the Majlis itself is a political and expert Majlis which can be one of the centers of the people's trust in the system; and the Majlis, as an assembly, has always been a manifestation of the revolution's freedom and democracy.

Referring to the fact that the freedom enjoyed by the deputies in the free platform of the Majlis has foiled the conspiracies of arrogance, which depict the system of the Islamic Republic as a despotic regime, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: By having such a free Majlis, and freedom-loving deputies, we can foil the cowardly propaganda waged against the revolution. It is hoped that the same order will prevail in the future.

While stating that due to the requirements of the war and other conditions, the Majlis has not been able to take full advantage of all its rights, the speaker of the Islamic Majlis pointed out that it will be in the interest of the government, the people, and the country if the rights of the Majlis are observed and respected. He said: By observing these rights the system can pursue every case where corruption, offenses, or violation of principles are witnessed. If the government wishes to serve, it should welcome criticisms of the Majlis.

Continuing his remarks, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed the need to maintain Majlis solidarity.

After concluding his speech, he resigned from the post of speaker of the Islamic Majlis.

According to a Central News Unit report, Mr Karrubi, the deputy speaker of the Islamic Majlis, referring to various events and the difficulties that the revolution faced during the past 10 years, and the fact that the revolution came through these difficulties with success thanks to the unique leadership qualities of the imam of the ummah, pointed out: The committed masses played an essential role in solving these difficulties. The outstanding figures, too, had a very logical and crucial role in these affairs—Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani is one of these outstanding and active figures. He added: Being the Majlis speaker was one of the heaviest burdens of responsibility shouldered by his excellency during the past 9 years. To be fair and frank, his excellency managed to run and guide the Majlis in the best possible manner, and all his friends were happy with his performance. The imam, too, who supervised all matters, was pleased with Mr Hashemi's performance, particularly in running the Majlis.

The next open session of the Majlis will start at 0730 tomorrow.

Mahdi Karrubi Elected New Majlis Speaker

LD1608055889 Tehran IRNA in English 0554 GMT 16 Aug 89

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 16, IRNA—Hojjat ol-Eslam Mahdi Karrubi was voted speaker by nearly two thirds of the deputies in Wednesday's session of the Majlis. Karrubi,

52, takes over the chairmanship of the Majlis following the resignation of Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani who was elected president last month.

Of the 241 deputies present, 147 voted for Karrubi, who was deputy speaker under Hashemi-Rafsanjani's chairmanship since 1984.

The runner up was former Interior Minister Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri who attracted 92 votes. Deputy Qasem Memari was the third candidate for the post.

Karrubi has for many years headed the Martyrs Foundation and was appointed by the late Imam Khomeyni as his representative in hajj affairs.

Born in the town of 'Ali Gudarz in Lorestan Province in the West of the country, Karrubi was arrested and sentenced to jail or exile a number of times before the 1979 Islamic revolution. He was arrested in the June 5, 1963 uprising led by Imam Khomeyni and imprisoned from 1973 to 1976.

Karrubi, studied traditional theology in Qom and Received a BA in theology from Tehran University. He is married with four children, one of whom lost a leg in the Iraqi war.

Majlis Deputies Urge Impeachment of Nabavi

LD1608065689 Tehran IRNA in English 0635 GMT 16 Aug 89

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 16, IRNA—A number of Majlis deputies have signed a petition calling for the impeachment of heavy industries minister in connection with a multi-million dollar corruption case. The petition against Behzad Nabavi was presented to the Majlis in Wednesday's session.

Before the summer recess which ended Tuesday, Nabavi answered questions in the Majlis related to the alleged theft of thousands of millions of rials (tens of millions of dollars) at the Saipa automobile plant which assembles Renault passenger cars.

After more than a year since investigations started the case is being pursued by judicial authorities and despite partial sentences it has never been announced closed.

Nabavi had rejected that any wrong doing by senior managers at Saipa, which is an affiliate of the Heavy Industries Ministry, had anything to do with him.

According to Article 89 of the constitution the Majlis has the right to impeach ministers. A petition calling for the dismissal of ministers must be signed by at least ten deputies.

It was not immediately known how many signed the petition against Nabavi who has been a member of the cabinet since 1981. He must show up at the Majlis within ten days to defend himself and face a confidence vote.

But during this time it is expected that president-elect Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani will officially take over and announce his cabinet whose members must receive a majority vote of approval from the Majlis.

Previous attempts (at least two) to impeach ministers, have failed.

Khamene'i Appoints Yazdi Head of Judiciary

LD1508174989 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 15 Aug 89

[Text] His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution, issued a decree in which he appointed Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi as the head of the country's judicial branch. The text of the leader of Islamic Republic of Iran's decree is as follows:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Ayatollah Haj Sheykh Mohammad Yazdi, may your benefits continue. In view of Article 157 of the Constitution, and in view of my belief in your knowledge and practical abilities, I would like to appoint you to the sensitive and honored post of head of the judicial branch. It is clear for your excellency that the judicial branch is the pulse of the management organs and the general conditions of the country. The health, stability, firmness, fairness, care, steadfastness, and finally the readiness and discipline of that organ is indicative of the presence of security, health, justice, fairness, and the good management of the country's affairs and the executive organs of the country. On the other hand, weakness, corruption, complacency, laziness, and lack of order within that organ is indicative of the presence of injustice, corruption, and insecurity within society. This is because the well-being of the judicial branch will incline all governmental and popular organs toward health and well-being, while its impotence and illness pave the way for general corruption. Firmness, fairness, prompt action, and complying with Islamic regulations are the necessary conditions by which the judicial apparatus of the country becomes the sanctuary and a place of refuge for the meek and the oppressed, inspiring hope in them.

My hope and expectation is that Your Excellency, in continuation of 10 years of efforts and struggles carried out by caring and responsible individuals within the judicial apparatus, through God's blessing and assistance from divine favors, and through firmness and initiative, may be able to organize the judicial apparatus in a totally Islamic fashion which enjoys complete justice and fairness, and that you may be able to employ those who are knowledgeable, faithful, and committed within the apparatus or outside of it.

I ask all the dear clergy and honored judges and other committed and faithful individuals who make endeavors for safeguarding the rights of the meek and the oppressed, to assist the very sensitive judicial organ, and give it all the help they can for its perfection and functioning.

I consider it necessary to pay sincere tribute to the steadfast efforts and endeavors of the highly esteemed scholar, Ayatollah Mr Musavi-Ardabili, who through the course of difficult and consecutive years of heading the Supreme Judicial Council laid the basis for many important and fundamental initiatives. Also I would like to thank the other members of the Supreme Judicial Council, who all have been serving this great organ in some way. I ask the Almighty for the success of Your Excellency.

[Signed] Seyyed Ali Khamene'i
[Dated] 15 August 1989

Yazdi Message to Khamene'i

LD1608092789 Tehran IRNA in English 0852 GMT 16 Aug 89

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 16, IRNA—Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi has pledged to implement justice and preserve the right of all people, especially the weak, upon his appointment as chief justice.

In a letter to leader Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i, Yazdi also promised to speed up the judicial process without reducing the quality of justice. "I hope to make the utmost effort in establishing justice and preserving and protecting public rights especially of the weak and the deprived and in pursuing and punishing criminals," he said. Yazdi was appointed head of the judiciary by the leader on Tuesday, replacing Ayatollah 'Abdol Karim Musavi-Ardabili.

Musavi-Ardabili in a joint farewell letter with prosecutor general Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Musavi Kho'iniha, called on the judiciary personnel to fully cooperate with their new chief. They said constitutional changes in relation to the head of the judiciary approved in the July 28 referendum could ease many problems within the branch. They also noted that with the separation of powers within the Supreme Judicial Council the ground has been laid for the new chief of the judiciary to manage more effectively.

The letter, signed by both men, was addressed to the judiciary personnel as an act of farewell. It was not immediately known if Kho'iniha had also been replaced.

They reminded the new chief justice whom they described as a "competent and well-known figure" and all state officials that preserving justice would be possible only through the independence of judges in particular and the judiciary as a whole.

"This important task would not be possible unless the high position of judgement and respect for judges is preserved and a struggle is waged against any sort of hidden and open pressures that may deviate judgment and the judge."

Chief Justice Yazdi thanked judiciary officials for their efforts of the past ten years and expressed hope that he would be able to expedite the judicial process and safeguard legal accuracy at the same time "without one damaging the other".

Commentary on Khamene'i's Address to POW's

LD1508190189 Tehran International Service in Persian 1430 GMT 15 Aug 89

[Unattributed commentary From the "Familiar Voice" program]

[Text] His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, Monday morning, at a gathering of families of POW's and MIA's, said: Next to the regime occupying Jerusalem, the U.S. Government is the governing body most hated by the Iranian nation. As long as the United States bases its policy on deceit, bullying, and malice, and as long as it continues to support the aggressor and the untouchable regime that transgresses against the rights of the world's oppressed, there is no possibility of negotiation or restoration of relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the United States, and we strongly reject it.

These remarks by our country's leader demonstrates the militant and uncompromising morale of a nation against plots by (?international Zionism and its supporter, the United States). With these remarks his eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i has in effect rejected any kind of compromise with (?the United States) and has clearly demonstrated the Iranian nation's uncompromising stand against global arrogance.

Referring to the incompatibility of the United States's satanic policies with the idealism of the Islamic revolution, the leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran described the Iranian nation's potential and actual strengths as the (?instruments) for perpetuating resistance and struggle. He has barred any negotiation or ties with the United States. This trend shows that the Islamic Republic of Iran will never surrender to the policies and manipulations [jav-sazi] of the propaganda loudspeakers of global arrogance. It shows that the Iranian nation, in confronting international developments, remains alert.

If we glance at the hostage crisis in Lebanon and the issue of the abduction by the Zionist regime of Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd, the Friday prayer leader of the small town of Jibshit, as well as at the positions adopted by the West regarding recent events in Lebanon, we see that the Americans have, in a way, tried to drag the Islamic Republic of Iran into these crises, intending to obtain the chance to negotiate and bargain [chaneh-zani] with the officials of our country. However, the alertness of the

officials and their refusal to allow themselves to be drawn into the manipulative policies of the West have frustrated the objectives of the West and the United States.

Now, with the clear and decisive positions adopted by the leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran against the United States, the West must know well how to negotiate and make peace with Iran; and to attain that objective it must review its policies and its support for the Zionist regime, and it must also abandon its policy of dominating and violating human rights as well as the sovereign rights of nations.

Meanwhile, in this regard the mission and responsibility of the Iranian nation—which the leader of the Islamic revolution referred to and confirmed—requires continued alertness and making the best use of potential and actual resources and strengths.

It is at this time that the country's economic reconstruction makes it imperative for our country to maintain its unity and continue its efforts to strengthen its defensive and economic capabilities. By being able to maintain unity and solidarity, our country has been able to expand its political maneuverability. It also makes possible (?increased options) in political objectives.

On the other hand, under our country's present conditions, in which, at every moment, new mischief by global arrogance is expected, it is necessary to make efforts to strengthen defensive capability more than ever before, and to deter enemies against embarking on any move against the territorial integrity of the Republic of Iran.

Parallel to these measures, (?it is natural) that efforts should be made to fortify the country's economic base, since political independence is guaranteed by economic independence. (?Thus) economic reconstruction is a sign of full recognition of the country's economic resources, such as (?mines), specialized forces, investment, and means of production. In order to suitably benefit from these resources, it is necessary to plan and find the appropriate economic growth and expansion model. [words indistinct] at this stage, should be carried out by taking into consideration the sociocultural and religious fabric of our country. Reconstruction and modernization should continue, not on the basis of their (?outward) meaning but by bearing in mind the preservation of our country's aspirations and political independence.

These days, modernization [now-sazi] is idiomatically equated to Westernization [qarb-gera'i] because it is felt that modernization began with the stages that Western powers passed through and followed and, evidently, this form of modernization and reconstruction is not what the revolutionary nation and officials of Iran seek. If we followed that trend, eventually the channel of Western influence over our country would once again open, contrary to the principles and aspirations of the Islamic revolution of Iran. The Iranian nation, by relying on Islamic values and (?avoiding) models for growth and expansion imported from the West, has chosen the path (?of self-sufficiency) and intends to follow this path until it achieves complete self-sufficiency and liberation from the (?domination) of the world economic system.

Bearing in mind what has been mentioned, by fulfilling this need for economic and political independence, and by strengthening defense capacities and the solid presence of the people, the continuing struggle against the great Satan will be strengthened and the aspirations of the Imam Khomeyni will be fulfilled.

U.S. Must Condemn Israel, Release Assets

LD1608082489 Tehran IRNA in English 0750 GMT 16 Aug 89

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 16, IRNA—U.S. President George Bush appeared to be taking past experience into account by taking a cautious line towards Iran but it would not be enough to improve ties with Iran, an Iranian daily said.

"It is time the U.S. ceases from behaving arrogantly," the KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL editorial underlined.

"Instead it can demonstrate its wisdom, farsightedness and pragmatic approach just by taking two simple actions: (1) Condemn Israel for its acts of terrorism and (2) release Iranian assets."

The paper acknowledged that the Bush administration had displayed "substantial restraint" on the hostages issue.

But it said Washington's initial attempts to link the issue with Iranian assets frozen in the U.S. and the later denial of such a link by the White House spokesman indicated the matter was being dealt with in a "haphazard manner—as so often in the past."

KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL called on the U.S. to heed leader 'Ali Khamene'i's warning that there could be no chance of any talks between Tehran and Washington as long as the latter continued to support Israel.

"Wisdom demands that facts should be accepted. It has been established beyond a shadow of a doubt that... [ellipsis as received] Iran is as determined today as it was yesterday not to yield to any arrogant power, however big," it said.

The paper also advised Bush not to rely on erroneous reports on the Islamic Republic as these led to former President Jimmy Carter's disgrace, and the bizarre handling of the Iran-Contra scandal by Bush's predecessor Ronald Reagan.

Editorial Says U.S. Responsible for Lebanon

NC1108210589 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 4 Aug 89 pp 1, 4

[Editorial: "Who is Responsible for the Incidents in Lebanon?"]

[Text] The responsibility for what is happening in Lebanon, for what is happening in the Arab world, and for the hostagetakings, abductions, and clashes in the Middle East rests on the shoulders of the U.S. Administration, and Israel is acting as an overseer and lord in the Middle East area.

If the U.S. and British Governments did not support the terrorist, kidnapper, and murderer Israeli Government; if the usurping Israeli Government did not spark off commotions in all corners of the area with the support of the U.S. Government; and if the Zionists were not allowed and did not have the armed capability to continue the occupation of Arab and Islamic countries, then the course of events would not have been what it is today.

The only alternative that the Palestinian nation, the Lebanese nation, and the Muslim and Arab nations had and have from the very start has been to defend themselves in the face of attacks. What has happened to America, Britain, and Israel today is precisely the result of their own acts in this. Colonel Higgins, whose execution was published by the Organization of the Oppressed [on Earth], and the other people with a similar fate, are the victims of the policy of America, Britain, and Israel.

If the American Government and the Western governments did not intervene in the affairs of Lebanon, occupied Palestine, and other Islamic countries, today George Bush would not be compelled to go from door to door making hasty and perplexed appeals in order to prevent the execution of American and British hostages.

Some British newspapers and Western mass media have said that Israel is to blame for the execution of Col Higgins. But the truth is that the British and American Governments are much more at fault. When in the West an animal attacks a human being or a rabid dog attacks a person, the Westerners do not disturb the animal but hold the owner of the rabid animal responsible! How is it that now the British and the Americans—the grandfather and the father—are holding their illegitimate child and the rabid animal that they themselves have let loose in the Middle East to look after their interests responsible for the recent act?

Who has repeatedly vetoed resolutions and decisions issued by the United Nations and the Security Council against Israel? Who has granted Israel the permission and opportunity to massacre the Palestinians inside their own homes? Who are those who help Israel in attacking and occupying Lebanon and the territories of other countries? Today, these people also are to blame. Today the governments of America and Britain and the governments acting as the mentors of the terrorist Zionists should hold themselves responsible for the death of Col Higgins and answer to the people. Today they are reaping what they sowed yesterday.

Nepal

Student Rally Denounces Indian Trade Blockade

BK1408155389 Hong Kong AFP in English 1531 GMT 14 Aug 89

[Text] Kathmandu, Aug 14 (AFP)—More than 4,000 Nepalese students held a rally Monday at the Tri Chandra campus to denounce India for imposing a trade blockade against this landlocked Himalayan kingdom, witnesses said.

The rally, organized by the leftist All Nepal Free Nationalist Students Union, was also called to criticise the government's education policy and the students called on Kathmandu to hold their annual examinations on time so that they would not lose an academic year.

Groups of riot police were seen standing on alert about 200 metres (220 yards) away from the rally site but did not intervene.

Several of the students were critical of India's trade and economic policy toward Nepal. They said the nearly five-month trade blockade had gravely affected the general public.

It was the first public rally by students that the local administration had permitted since anti-Indian and anti-Panchayat (Parliament) demonstrations on April 2 in Kathmandu.

Following that protest, the local government banned all public rallies and demonstrations in the Kathmandu township in an apparent bid to avoid political trouble.

At the end of Monday's rally, the students raised anti-Indian slogans, such as "Down with Indian expansionism" and "We want free and unrestricted transit facilities." Police sources said that no arrests were made.

India and Nepal have been engaged in a commerce dispute since the expiry of trade and transit treaties on March 27 and the two neighbors cannot agree on whether the issues should be negotiated jointly or separately.

The dispute has seen India close nearly all of the land routes from its territory into Nepal, causing serious economic dislocation and shortages of fuel and other essential goods there.

Parli

BK1608001489 liamentarians Blame India

15 Aug 89 *Hong Kong AFP in English 2047 GMT*

[Text] Kathman
Nepalese Parliandu, Aug 15 (AFP)—Members of the
of having no iment have lambasted India, accusing it
month trade impinterest in resolving a four-and-a-half
said. passe with Nepal, parliamentary sources

In a meeting of t
Panchayat, 35 Mthe Finance Committee of the National
government of PMP's [members of Parliament] urged the
continue efforts Prime Minister Marich Singh Shrestha to
dispute, which to seek an early solution to the trade
economy. they said has crippled the Nepalese

Conservative ro
accused India oyalist member Dil Bahadur Shrestha
Darjeeling and of opening guerrilla training camps in
while others sai other areas near its border with Nepal,
hegemonism" and New Delhi was guilty of "regional
South Asia." nd trying to "act like a policeman in

From the left, Pa
respect principleadma Ratna Tuladhar said India should
ately begin negtes of peaceful coexistance and immedi-
"unequal treatiegotiations on pacts to replace expired
es" over trade and transit.
Royalist membe
Shrestha should er Drona Shumsher Rana said Mr.
resign if he could not resolve the crisis.
Several member
Indian Prime Mrs said they hoped King Birendra and
Belgrade during Minister Rajiv Gandhi would meet in
Movement Septe the Ninth Summit of the Non-aligned
normal. ember 4-7 and bring bilateral ties back to

Other MP's said
replied to a lett they regretted that New Delhi had not
Foreign Ministertter sent 51 days ago from Nepalese
part proposing tar S.K. Upadhyaya to his Indian counter-
talks.
Nepal claims tha
port of oil prodiat India has partially blocked the trans-
landlocked kingducts and other essential goods to this
transit were allogdom since the treaties over trade and
owed to expire in March.

Dono

BK1608002089 lor Countries Asked for Aid

15 Aug 89 *Hong Kong AFP in English 2001 GMT*

[Text] Kathmar
Finance Ministrandu, Aug 15 (AFP)—The Nepalese
it asked represenry convened a meeting Tuesday at which
zations for fresh entatives of donor countries and organi-
ties, state-run Rah aid during current economic difficul-
Radio Nepal said.
Finance Ministe
meeting the aider Baharat Bahadur Pradhan told the
and-a-half montld was especially needed after a four-
th trade dispute with India.

Participants in the meeting included the local representatives of Australia, Britain, France, Denmark, Italy, West Germany, Japan, Switzerland and the United States, the radio said. International development agencies were also represented.

Mr. Pradhan said: "If our aid partners do not help us, it would not be possible for us to meet our economic goals and maintain financial discipline" in the current fiscal year started mid-July. He appealed on the aid donors to offer more financial assistance.

The minister said the Nepalese government had adopted measures to control its budget deficit and to encourage the private sector to increase production.

The government has also maintained a buffer stock of petroleum products and has taken strong measures to control inflation, he said.

Nepal, a landlocked, mountainous country, maintains that India has partially blocked supplies of oil products and other necessities after trade and transit treaties were allowed to expire.

Army Cargo Planes Crash on Nepalgunj Runway

BK1208104689 Hong Kong AFP in English 1033 GMT 12 Aug 89

[Text] Kathmandu, Aug 12 (AFP)—Two Nepalese army cargo planes airlifting essential goods to remote western Nepal crashed on the runway at southwestern Nepalgunj, informed sources said here Saturday. The accident occurred Friday when the hydraulics system failed in a government-chartered cargo plane travelling at full speed down the runway for take-off at Nepalgunj, 400 kilometres (260 miles) southwest of here.

The pilot diverted the aircraft and hit another Royal Nepalese Army cargo plane on the ground, demolishing both aircraft.

Co-pilot Captain P.N. Rana was injured in the crash and was rushed by helicopter to a Kathmandu military hospital for emergency treatment where doctors amputated one leg. Other crew members in both of the British-made aircraft escaped serious injury, the sources said.

Heavy monsoon rains in Nepal's remote western districts have virtually cut road links to the area. The Nepalese government began airlifting supplies to residents in the area after India closed most trade passages to the landlocked nation on March 23 following the expiry of 1978 Indo-Nepalese treaties on trade and transit.

The loss of the two cargo planes has seriously hampered air transport of essential goods to western Nepal, the sources said.

The Defence Ministry said in a press statement that it has launched an inquiry into the accident.

Veteran Critic of Prime Minister Resigns

BK1108122989 Hong Kong AFP in English 1215 GMT 11 Aug 89

[Text] Kathmandu, Aug 11 (AFP)—Mr. Shiva Raj Pant 68, a veteran pro-democracy advocate and outspoken critic of Prime Minister Marich Man Singh Shrestha, has resigned from the National Panchayat (Parliament), state television reported Friday.

When asked to explain why, Mr. Pant said, "I will speak at an appropriate time." Without elaborating further he added: "I have been made a scape-goat." Mr. Pant, a former forestry minister between 1959-60 when the parliamentary system was first introduced in the Himalayan Kingdom, had sided against the prime minister with proponents of a multi-party system for the non-party Panchayat.

According to highly placed sources in the Panchayat Policy and Evaluation Committee (PPEC), he was forced to resign. A royal nominee to Parliament in May 1986 for a five year term, Mr. Pant had consistently voiced support for a multi-party system and was drifting away from Prime Minister Shrestha's policy of a partyless state. His forced resignation was aimed at bringing royal nominees into line with the prime minister, PPEC sources said, and observers predicted it would cause uproar when Parliament was re-convened next Monday.

The prime minister has recently been under fire in the Panchayat and after a rowdy debate last Monday on the allocation of funds for ministries, the house was suspended for a week.

Of 140 members in the legislature, 112 are elected through an electoral college and 28 are royal nominees.

PPEC sources said that when the Public Exchequer's 1989-90 fiscal year budget is passed, the house would be prorogued on August 26—giving Prime Minister Shrestha a clear mandate to run the government for at least another year until the 41st session of the National Panchayat is opened in mid-June.

Pakistan

Reportage on Ethnic Violence; Curfew Imposed

5 Dead in Karachi Clashes

BK1508161689 Hong Kong AFP in English 1506 GMT 15 Aug 89

[Text] Karachi, Aug 15 (AFP)—An indefinite curfew was clamped on Karachi's eastern districts Tuesday after overnight ethnic violence left five people dead and seven injured, police said.

Paramilitary troops were deployed in sensitive areas as tension mounted following overnight clashes between Urdu-speaking Muhajirs and Pathan-Punjabi settlers from the north of the country in the Malir and Korangi districts.

Two people were killed and seven injured in the districts, close to Karachi's international airport, when masked gunmen in a car opened fire at random in an area dominated by Muhajirs. Clashes later broke out elsewhere, leaving three people dead, hospital sources said.

Police cordoned off the disturbed areas, and troops were called out to patrol the main streets to ward off further rioting. As tension mounted, the two districts were placed under an indefinite curfew.

Observers said the latest incidents came after nearly five weeks of relative peace in this riot-prone southern port city, home to various ethnic groups.

Police were not able to explain the cause of the latest clashes.

Three people were killed in another ethnic clash Friday in Nawabshah town, 240 kilometers (150 miles) north of here.

Death Toll Rises to 8

BK1608101689 Hong Kong AFP in English 0929 GMT 16 Aug 89

[Text] Karachi, Aug 16 (AFP)—Tension prevailed in Karachi's eastern districts Wednesday [16 August] as the death toll from a new wave of ethnic violence rose to eight, police said.

A curfew was clamped in the districts of Malir, Korangi and Model Colony Tuesday night after eight people were killed and 25 injured in rioting between the Urdu-speaking Muhajirs, who migrated from India after partition and independence in 1947, and Punjabi-Pathan settlers from the north.

Police arrested more than 20 people on charges of rioting, arson and damaging public property. The rioters set ablaze shops, houses and vehicles on the roads, and also attacked a local bank and burned furniture after a shooting incident Monday.

Troops continued to patrol the curfew-clamped areas where tension ran high among rival groups, witnesses said.

The chief minister of Sind Province, Syed Qaim Ali Shah, cut short a visit to rain-devastated districts of the southern province, and presided over a high level meeting to discuss the deteriorating law and order situation in the city. Mr. Shah expressed sympathy for the victims and ordered the police to curb rioting with an "iron hand". He accused "anti-democratic forces",

meaning pro-Zia opposition parties, of disturbing peace in Karachi in order to "malign and embarass the elected government of Pakistan People's Party" (PPP).

The opposition Islamic Democratic Alliance (IJI) headed by Punjab Chief Minister Nawaz Sharif, the main political rival of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, has planned a public commemoration in Islamabad of the first anniversary of the death of President Mohammad Ziaul Haq in a plane crash Thursday.

Meanwhile, Imran Farooq, secretary general of the Muhajir Quami Movement (MQM) representing the Urdu-speaking community and a coalition partner in the Sind provincial government with PPP, condemned Monday's indiscriminate firing by gunmen which triggered off rioting through Tuesday. Mr. Farooq also accused the police and local administration of having failed to control the situation.

Press Note on Anniversary of Ziaul Haq's Death

Koran Recitation Permitted

BK1508155889 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 15 Aug 89

[Text] The Islamabad administration has issued a press note today which stated that although Section 144 [banning assembly of five or more persons in any area] is in force in all of Islamabad, the people will be allowed to move freely to the Faisal Mosque on 17 August where organizers apparently intend to conduct a Koran recitation [marking the first death anniversary of former President Ziaul Haq]. The administration has no desire to obstruct or interfere with observances of religious rites. It is hoped that the organizers will not give the rally any political shape. The administration has forbidden other groups wanting to observe the 17th of August as the day of deliverance from doing so, because it will not allow any political rallies in Islamabad. The administration has expressed the hope that the organizers of the Koran recitation at the Faisal Mosque will adopt a positive attitude in view of the cordiality being shown by the Islamabad administration.

'Tense' Political Atmosphere

BK1608102889 Hong Kong AFP in English 1005 GMT 16 Aug 89

[By Rene Slama]

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 16 (AFP)—Pakistan's political climate was tense Wednesday [16 August] on the eve of the first anniversary of the death of General Mohammad Ziaul Haq as the opposition planned a show of force against the Bhutto government.

Nawaz Sharif, chief minister of Punjab Province and chairman of the Islamic Democratic Alliance (IJI), an eight-party opposition coalition, has in recent days publicly praised the former president as a "martyr."

Gen. Ziaul Haq, who ruled Pakistan with an iron hand for 11 years, was killed August 17, 1988 when his presidential plane crashed in the eastern city of Bahawalpur.

Stating that he did not intend to "politicize" the anniversary, the 40-year-old Mr. Sharif has called on sympathizers to join a "religious ceremony" scheduled Thursday at Islamabad's Faisal Mosque. He has hired out dozens of vehicles to be used in the memorial ceremony and launched a poster and handbill campaign in several cities that was immediately countered by members of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party (PPP).

Thursday's anniversary has been building into more and more of a political confrontation between pro- and anti-Bhutto factions, analysts said.

On Tuesday night, state television broadcast a program entitled "Flashback" which described "the 11 years of unchallenged rule" of Gen. Ziaul Haq and the mass arrests, tortures and arbitrary hangings which accompanied it.

Mr. Sharif and Gen. Ziaul Haq's son, 37-year-old Ejazul Haq, who has decided to pursue a political career, have frequently charged that a "climate of revenge" still exists in Pakistan. They have alleged in particular that the current government intends to "execute" retired General Fazle Haq, the former military governor of the North-West Frontier Province and a close ally of Gen. Ziaul Haq. The retired general was arrested July 22 in connection with the assassination of a Shiite Muslim leader a year ago.

The two have drawn a parallel between the Fazle Haq affair and that of Ms. Bhutto's father, Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, who was ousted by Gen. Ziaul Haq in 1977 and hanged two years later.

The government of the 36-year-old Ms. Bhutto has dismissed the accusations and stressed that "the judicial system has been finally restored" in Pakistan and that Mr. Sharif and Mr. Ejaz's allegations are part of a "campaign of denegration" launched in recent weeks by the "heirs of dictatorship."

"With the changes (to) democracy (in Pakistan) their minds have not changed," said Professor N.D. Khan, a political advisor to Ms. Bhutto and deputy secretary general of the PPP. "Sharif was born with martial law, he came out of Ziaul Haq's pocket," Mr. Khan added in an interview.

"How can he compromise with the cause of democracy as he ruled with Ziaul Haq and rushed to Aslam Beg (Pakistan's army chief of staff) to ask him to reimpose martial law when Ziaul Haq died?" Mr. Khan said.

Ms. Bhutto's government has however tried to calm spirits on the anniversary of Gen. Ziaul Haq's death. Militant members of the PPP were asked to abandon their idea of organizing a "day of deliverance" on Thursday.

The Islamabad municipal government meanwhile announced Wednesday that Faisal Mosque, next to which Gen. Zia is buried, would be freely accessible for Thursday's service but recalled that carrying arms is strictly forbidden.

Bonn Unhappy With U.S. F-16 Deal With Country

AU2407123189 Hamburg DER SPIEGEL in German 24 Jul 89 pp 14-15

[Unattributed report: "Bomb Business"]

[Text] Bonn government authorities are currently observing with annoyance a U.S. arms deal with Pakistan. During talks in Washington last month, U.S. President George Bush had promised head of government Benazir Bhutto that the United States would sell Pakistan 60 F-16 fighter bombers—a contribution, the U.S. side believes, to "improving the security of a friendly country."

However, for Bonn the 1.5-billion-dollar deal actually proves how little the Americans care about those security reservations which they themselves advance against German exports to Pakistan if their profit interests are affected. A chancellor's aide complained last week that "whereas they accuse us, they do business themselves."

The Americans had always criticized the Germans for selling equipment such as powder presses and special cutting machines that can be used for civilian as well as military purposes, thus indirectly supporting Pakistan's atomic bomb program. The U.S. export of F-16's makes it possible to use this dangerous weapon at all. The Pakistanis have secretly planned to use the fighter aircraft as a delivery system for their bomb.

According to a report by the Federal Intelligence Service (BND), relevant tests have already been successfully concluded. The BND has reported to the Chancellor's Office that, using an F-16 model, the Pakistanis have made wind tunnel tests and have designed the shell of the bomb in a way that allows them to install it underneath the wings. At the same time, the detonating mechanism has been improved, so that the weapon can now be used.

As early as 1983, the United States supplied 40 F-16 fighter bombers to Pakistan. However, at that time the Pakistanis did not get important electronic contacts that are supposed to arm the bomb in flight. Nor did the Pakistanis get special software for their on-board computers that enables the pilot to fly a quick loop in dropping the bomb.

According to the BND report, the Pakistani[s] found out how to program the F-16 on-board[s long ago] to carry out the relevant flight maneuvers i[n d computer] the bomb. According to the report from Pul[n dropping] headquarters], they also know how to mak[lach [BND] tronic contact between the aircraft and the b[e the elec-]omb.

Sri Lanka

Delhi TV Reports 34 Killed in Fresh Vio[lence]

BK1508010489 Delhi Doordarshan Television[n Network] in English 1600 GMT 14 Aug 89

[Text] t least 34 people have been killed in[fresh inci]dents of violence in Sri Lanka. Twenty-five o[f them were] found hacked to death in five places in (Ar[mbilipitiya)] area of the southern Ratnapura District a[nd central] Matale District. They are yet to be identifie[d. In other] incidents, three JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Pera[muna] men were killed by the security forces. Elsewh[ere in the] country, three Buddhist monks, two policer[men, and a] woman constable were killed in separate inc[idents.

Meanwhile, the JVP has called for a nation[wide strike] tomorrow.

Minister Admits 'Excesses' by Security [Forces]

BK1608075089 Hong Kong AFP in English 0744 GMT 16 Aug 89

[Text] Colombo, Aug 16 (AFP)—A senior Sri Lankan minister Wednesday admitted that there may be excesses by security forces in their drive against anti-government rebels and said it was difficult to control increasing vigilante killings.

Foreign Minister Ranjan Wijeratne told re[porters here] that people have started taking revenge on t[he Sinhalese] militant Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP[, or People's] Liberation Front) which has killed thousand[s of rivals.

Mr. Wijeratne, who is also junior defence m[inister, said] police and troops have stepped up press[sure on the] radical JVP and the rebel group has respond[ed by killing] families of soldiers.

"There may be excesse (by security forces[). It is very] difficult to gauge that unless you are on th[e spot," Mr.] Wijeratne said at the weekly briefing after [the Cabinet] meeting.

"Members of families who have been affecte[d in the past] are also taking to settle their grudges. They a[re taking the] law into their hands and killing. It is very difficult to control these vigilante groups," the ministe[r said.

Asked if a senior police officer in central p[rovince who] lost his family at the hands of JVP activi[sts could be] taking revenge, Mr. Wijertane said: "It is p[ossible. But I] don't know his heart and mind. He is doing his duty and we have confidence in our officers."

There have been increasing reports of bodies found almost daily by roadsides in provinces and sometimes even near Colombo.

Human rights groups have accused security forces and pro-government vigilante groups of carrying out such attacks. The government has blamed the killing of more than 2,500 people in the past two years on the JVP.

Residents in southern Beliatta village said two charred bodies were found there Wednesday while five more were seen Tuesday. The victims were sympathisers of the JVP, the residents contacted by telephone said.

Mr. Wijeratne said the government will not take indiscriminate action against the rebels out of consideration for civilians, but conceded that innocent people may have got caught up in crossfire in the past. He said troops were making progress in trying to subdue the JVP, but declined to give details of military operations.

His remarks came a day after the JVP staged a successful strike to bring essential services here and key towns to a virtual standstill. "People responded to the fear psychosis" Mr. Wijeratne said, referring to the JVP strike.

Meanwhile, a strike at all state-run hospitals continued for the sixth straight day Wednesday, a Buddhist holiday here, with employees demanding the release of two colleagues arrested by security forces.

Mr. Wijeratne said the government will not give in to the strikers' demand. The two men had been arrested while putting up JVP posters, he added.

JVP Strike Grips Country; Premadasa Urges Peace

BK1508101289 Hong Kong AFP in English 0958 GMT 15 Aug 89

[Excerpts] Colombo, Aug 15 (AFP)—President Ranasinghe Premadasa Tuesday appealed for peace in Sri Lanka as a strike by Sinhalese rebels brought the capital and key areas around the country to a virtual standstill.

Local and foreign banks, shops, courts and offices were closed and public and private transport stayed off the streets in Colombo and other main towns and provinces, officials and residents said.

The strike call was issued by the Sinhalese Janatha Vimukti Peramuna (JVP, or People's Liberation Front) to coincide with Indian independence day Tuesday. [passage omitted]

Mr. Premadasa in a statement Tuesday renewed a call for a speedy withdrawal of Indian troops from Sri Lanka and said he was revising a package of proposals on the issue made in talks earlier this month in New Delhi. "Arrangements should be made for the accelerated withdrawal of the Indian armed forces," he said, adding that steps should be taken to restore peace in the troubled north-east and re-establish a civil administration.

India has said it will withdraw all its troops by February 15 if more autonomy is given to the Tamils, a demand rejected by Colombo.

The JVP has described the 1987 peace accord as a sell-out to "Indian imperialism" and has vowed to force the troops out and overthrow Mr. Premadasa's government.

"These days, I am in the process of revising the New Delhi proposals with a view to achieving these objectives (of sending the IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] back and restoring peace). Thereafter I will be taking appropriate action.

"In the meantime, I appeal to all to refrain from indulging in violence or any other provocative acts which will impede the restoration of peace," Mr. Premadasa said in his four-paragraph statement.

Military officials said at least seven people, including two soldiers, were killed in continuing political violence in the south overnight Monday.

Officials in the northeastern port town of Trincomalee, the capital of the Tamil-majority Northeastern Province, said the region was unaffected by the JVP-sponsored strike. However, almost all other parts of the island where the majority Sinhalese community is concentrated were paralysed, officials said. They said a few state-owned buses were operated in and around Colombo by Army drivers under armed escort. Office attendance fell sharply and almost all government department and corporations were unable to operate. A few shops which opened in the morning put up shutters after a few hours, residents said.

The JVP, which has staged similar strikes in the past, has described its latest action as a warning to the government.

Residents in central Kandy town said the streets in the picturesque tea-growing area were deserted and fewer private cars were on the road. "Very few people are on the road. All shops, banks and government and private offices are closed," a resident in Kandy said, adding that life was at a standstill in the region. There were similar reports from the southern districts of Galle and Matara, which are JVP strongholds.

Lawyers said courts were also affected by the strike and cases were put off as staff kept away.

A work stoppage by hospital staff dragged on to its fifth day Tuesday, spreading from the capital to medical facilities in the provinces. Hospital workers are

demanding the release of two of their colleagues arrested by security forces for suspected links with the JVP, a Health Ministry spokesman said.

The JVP has been accused of killing more than 2,500 rivals in the past two years. In 1971, an insurrection led by the group was put down with the loss of at least 10,000 lives.

Premadasa on Revision of New Delhi Proposals
BK1508113689 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 15 Aug 89

[Text] President Premadasa in a statement today on the withdrawal of the IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] says that the New Delhi proposal needed further revision. No room should be left for the slightest undermining of the sovereignty of Sri Lanka. Every practical step should be taken to ensure total peace in the north and east by taking into consideration the reality of the situation.

The president points out that meaningful steps should be taken to ensure the safety and security of all sections of the people and to reestablish the civil administration there. Arrangements should be made for accelerating the withdrawal of the Indian armed forces.

The president emphasized that all impediments in the path of bringing about unity and amity among the people of the north and east should be removed. These [word indistinct] is in the process of revising the New Delhi proposals with a view to achieving these objectives. Thereafter, he will be taking appropriate action.

In the meantime, the president appeals to all to refrain from indulging in violence or any provocative actions which will impede the restoration of peace.

Northeast Chief Favors Delhi, Colombo Peace Plan
BK1608030489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 16 Aug 89

[Text] The chief minister of the Northeastern Province of Sri Lanka, Mr Varadaraja Perumal, has said that his government will fully support any proposals that will be agreed upon by New Delhi and Colombo to bring peace in the region. In an interview to our correspondent in Trincomalee, he said the ethnic issue will not be resolved if negotiations are dragged on without arriving at a final settlement.

Premadasa Determined To 'Revamp Mess'
BK1108145989 Colombo SUN in English 1 Aug 89 p 5

[Editorial: "Foreign Affairs"]

[Text] President Premadasa last week named former international civil servant and highly proficient and experienced technocrat Bradman Weerakoon as the Presidential advisor on foreign relations.

The decision to have such a position is most timely and the choice of the President is decidedly apt. Mr. Weerakoon besides his administrative skills and achievements in the Sri Lankan civil service, has been a top international administrator particularly in his tenure of office as the chief of the London-based IPPF [expansion unknown].

The post now created is in itself an important addition to the President's Office. It was a long felt need.

Most of Sri Lanka's political and economic maladies have their roots in our faulty and faltering handling of international relations. This has been so for donkey's years. The Foreign Office [FO] must hold itself responsible for most of the problems Lanka has encountered on the foreign scene.

Surfeit of political interference has evidently plagued the F.O.

It is at the Foreign Office that we have international experts who are supposed to advise the political decision makers and also monitor the international scene vis-a-vis Lanka's own policy.

These foreign experts on foreign affairs, protocol, consular matters and international law must ensure that Sri Lanka and its leaders do not encounter difficulties or face embarrassments with foreign counterparts. But can we really say that our copy book remains clean?

For instance our relations with neighbouring India are in a tumultuous state. Somebody must take the responsibility. Of course India the regional bully practising its geo-politics of a hegemonical kind is the main culprit in this bilateral fiasco. Even bullies could be tamed through effective diplomacy. As we have often pointed out Finland is a classic example.

Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike was right when she told the Parliament that Sri Lanka has bungled its foreign policy. In fact we have been doing so for almost over a decade now and not necessarily during the past one year or so.

The very reason why the bully made its presence here is because of the absurdities of our Indian policy that somehow gave New Delhi reason to whip up xenophobia on ostensible grounds but with sinister motivations.

Not only in SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] have we chosen to take an unusual line. We made some strange decisions over the Falklands dispute a few years ago.

What about the experts in the Foreign Office? They seem to suffer from political inhibitions as they continue to practise "live and let live" without burning their fingers so to say, Or they would rather agree with wrong decisions of their political decision makers thus taking the nation into crisis

On the other hand the political leaders must also realise the potential values of these experts in the Foreign Office. Give them their just dues and ensure promotions and foreign assignments on merit. Above all seek their advice. Let them not have a complex that some political appointee will usurp their rightful place of try to tell them what foreign affairs is all about.

President Premadasa is determined to revamp the mess that has been created down the years. The sooner he does it, the better it would be for the country and its people.

Wijeratne Criticizes Opposition's Bandaranaike

BK1208115189 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 12 Aug 89

[Text] When Parliament met yesterday, the minister of foreign affairs and minister of state for defense, Ranjan Wijeratne, made a statement to the House in reply to opposition leader Sirimavo Bandaranaike's speech on the Indian Peacekeeping Force withdrawal and related issues, which have received wide publicity.

Minister Wijeratne said that the whole country will agree that the decision taken by President Premadasa to bring the New Delhi talks and Indian troop withdrawal issue into Parliament is the most reasonable and logical one. He added that the government delegation stand and the Indian delegation stand on these issues have been placed before Parliament. There is a clear divergence between the relative positions, and the adjustments can obviously be suggested which could close the gap between the divergent positions.

Minister Wijeratne noted that the government is consulting all parties, which represent every state of opinion in the country, to find out which one of the two positions they support; and if they don't support either, what better stand they could suggest. He added that in the case of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party, which is supposed to be the alternate government, they have no policy of their own with regard to this critical national issue of the Indian troop pullout.

Mr Wijeratne said that the opposition leader has evaded this vital issue by asking about the reaction of the Indian Government on the withdrawal of the Indian Peacekeeping Force.

Minister Wijeratne branded Mrs Bandaranaike's speech as opportunistic, evasive, and childish. He said that the leader of the opposition, as leader of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party, has announced to the country that if she was returned to power she would tear up the Indo-Lanka accord in 24 hours and take action to withdraw the Indian Peacekeeping Force. He added that this was a direct, unqualified, and unconditional statement. The minister pointed out that there was not a word mentioned about the application in the statement made by Mrs Bandaranaike in Parliament. [sentence as heard]

Winding up the debate on the New Delhi talks, Minister Wijeratne said that this debate provides an opportunity for all members to put forward their views and offer the government their suggestions on the four important issues placed by the government before Parliament.

Referring to Mrs Bandaranaike's statement, Mr Wijeratne further said that the leader of the opposition has failed to put forward any suggestions and has not allowed any of her members, either, to speak on this issue.

Jayewardene Supports Withdrawal of Indian Troops

BK1408113189 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 14 Aug 89

[Text] Former President J.R. Jayewardene has revealed that when the Government of Sri Lanka undertook the Vadamarachchi campaign [to flush out Tamil militants from the Jaffna peninsula], the then India high commissioner in Sri Lanka, J.N. Dixit, told Minister Lalith Athulathmudali that India would never permit Sri Lankan forces to take Jaffna and put pressure on Sri Lanka to ease the campaign against Tamil militants in the north. In an interview with INDIA TODAY, [former] President Jayewardene has admitted that the idea of an accord came at a time when the Sri Lankan Government was having difficulties in sustaining the campaign and maintaining supplies to its soldiers in the north. He then gladly accepted it.

[Former] President Jayewardene has defended the accord saying that India-Sri Lanka Treaty of 1987 was the best thing that could have happened in the circumstances. If the accord had not been concluded, the government would have lost. It would have collapsed. However, India promised to bring peace and to make the militants lay down their arms. India went back on its words, the [former] president charged.

He said he saw nothing wrong with the accord because by signing the treaty India undertook responsibility to help solve the problem it had itself created. Supporting President Premadasa on the issue of the withdrawal of the IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force], the former president said that the IPKF must return if President Premadasa says so, and added that the withdrawal is not linked with devolution [of power to the Northeastern Province Council].

Mr Jayewardene commended the IPKF, which, according to him, has done a good job, and expressed his indebtedness to the Indian Army. He, however, said if the Sri Lankan Government feels that it is time for the IPKF to go and that Sri Lanka can settle the problem on its own, India should oblige.